AGENDA

BIG GULL LAKE (WEST) COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

JULY 31st, 2022

       1. Welcome – Tina C

2. Review and approval of the 2021 minutes – Bill Willekes

3. Lake Business – Tina C

  ​            A. Gypsy Moths Brief Discussion

                     B. Whiteduck Provincial Park

                     C. May 21st Storm

                     D. Internet/Cell Update

       E. FOCA Update

   ​    ​F. Boating Rules Update

   ​    ​G. Provincial/Regional Updates

  ​     ​H. Lake Association Items

4. Treasurer’s Report – Val Noges

5. Water Quality Report – Jim Ogilvie

6. Road Report – Duncan Hardie

7. Other business

8. Cottage Fees

9. Election of Association Officers

10. Closing Remarks

Minutes of meeting

**1.**Welcome – Tina Collins

I would like to introduce to you our newest members to our association starting with those that have arrived since Covid;

Ingrid Priede   (Family of Peter and Valentina Reinson) Gull Lake Lane

Mike and Lindsay Neubauer   Chimney Point

Tannis Shick and Darcy McCombs  Chimney Point

John and Linda Ward. Chimney Point

Also from Earl’s Bay road

Sue Mariutti and Jeff Cooper

Rudy Ruegsegger

Please welcome them to our fantastic association.

Special thank you to Jim and Pat Ogilvie for hosting us today.

Let’s now move on the meeting and association business.

**2.**Review and approval of the 2019 minutes – Bill Willekes

Acceptance of minutes; Duncan Hardie and Bill Willekes

**3.**Lake Business – Tina Collins

A. **Gypsy Moths Update**

Well, this discussion will be short and sweet!  Not sure about all of you but what a relief that we only saw 3 very small caterpillars this year.  No moths!!  In addition to the natural virus,  I can tell you that everyone’s hard work with the traps and embracing the spraying has helped give the trees a chance to recover.  The hope with this year’s spraying is that it may have helped either stop or slow down the next species on the horizon.  Please keep the traps as we never know but fingers crossed we won’t need them for a few years.

Let’s hope this topic is not on the agenda for a long, long time.

* Duncan asked if we felt that this last spray was successful this year. Answer provided was that we believe the 1st year of spraying was very successful, and second year…not sure
  + John Ward (also have a place on Stoney Lake) said that the moths were horrible at Stoney Lake last year and since BTK is not waterproof, if it rains after an application or if it is windy, it reduces the efficacy of BTK.

**B. Whiteduck Provincial Park**

Following the update sent out earlier this year by the stakeholder lead, a proposal has been made that the portion of Big Gull Lake in question at the eastern end of the lake will be designated part of the Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve.  What does that mean?  If approved then the following is what a Conservation Reserve means:

They protect sensitive and important places and enable visitors to participate in environmentally-responsible recreational activities, such as hiking, canoeing, hunting, fishing, and more. They allow for ecologically-sustainable land uses and research to take place.

Like provincial parks, conservation reserves are selected and designed based on their ecological, geological, and cultural heritage features, and are selected using very specific criteria.

They do not have a classification system like provincial parks, and typically do not have operating facilities, programs, or closure dates.  In other words, they are not like Conservation Areas or Provincial Parks.

Both conservation reserves and conservation areas focus on protection of natural environments, however conservation *areas* are not managed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Conservation Reserves are, an important distinction.

**UPDATE: The proposal to include the parcel of land in the Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve has been accepted please see attached documents for more details.**

**Indigenous Relations Unit** 

**300 Water Street**

**4th Floor, South Tower**

**Peterborough, ON, K9J 3C7**

December 5, 2022

To whom this may concern,

**Subject: Proposal to amend a boundary by regulation to add Crown land to Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve – Public notice for a Category B project evaluation under the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order**

Since 1991, the governments of Canada, Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) have been negotiating towards a settlement of the Algonquin Land Claim. A key part of these negotiations is the establishment of a recommended provincial park (Natural Environment Class) in the area of the Crotch Lake Conservation Reserve, to be named Whiteduck Provincial Park. This recommendation was included in the Algonquins of Ontario Agreement-in-Principle signed by the three negotiating parties on October 18, 2016.

Consultation was conducted regarding the proposed boundary for the recommended Whiteduck Provincial Park in fall 2020. As a result of stakeholder feedback on that proposal, the negotiation parties agreed to consider adding the Crown lands southeast of Big Gull Lake and south of Mink Lake, that were originally proposed as part of the recommended Whiteduck Provincial Park, to Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve instead. Unopened road allowances currently not included in the existing Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve boundary are also being considered for addition to the conservation reserve. A map is attached. The proposed boundary of the recommended Whiteduck Provincial Park otherwise remains unchanged.

This alternate proposal provides for the protection of the ecological, historical and cultural features of the area, while still maintaining recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy them. These were key objectives for these lands identified by the negotiation parties. This alternate proposal represents a willingness by all parties to help find a balanced approach to address stakeholder input.

In order to amend, rescind or establish boundaries by regulation under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) Ontario must assess the potential environmental effects associated with the projects and consult with the public, Indigenous communities and stakeholders who have an interest in, or may be affected by the project, as provided for in the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order, under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). You are receiving this public notice because you have been identified as a potential stakeholder or own property within 120 metres of the Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve and/or the recommended Whiteduck Provincial Park.

**The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks invites you to comment on the following project (Category B) under the Algonquin Land Claim Declaration Order*:***

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks **

• Amending a boundary by regulation to add Crown land and unopened road allowances to Hungry Lake Conservation Reserve.

The official public notice and a detailed map are included with this letter.

Further general information about the Algonquin Land Claim can be found at

https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim.

Further information about this project, along with a summary of consultations to date on proposed additions to the provincial parks and conservation reserves system as part of the Algonquin Land Claim can be found at https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim-additions-to-ontarios-provincial park-system.

The County of Frontenac is assisting the province with direct notification to property owners within 120 metres. Only the primary rate payers on record with the county have received this notice directly. If there are multiple owners associated with your property roll number, we kindly request that you share this information accordingly, or have them contact us at the email or phone number below to request a copy be sent to them directly.

If you have questions about this project, or would like to provide comments, please contact us at 1- 855-690-7070 or eerfeedback@ontario.ca. Comments will be received until **January 23, 2023**.

Sincerely,



Kirsty Dickson

Indigenous Relations Coordinator

**C.**May 21st 2022 Storm

I am not sure how many of you were here to witness the Déroche roll through this area however it will be something that few will forget including myself.  I count ourselves fortunate on BGL to have for the most part come away unscathed.  Some of our fellow cottagers were not as lucky.  Not sure if any of you have ventured up HWY 41 towards and past Mazzinaw Lake.  Needless to say, the devastation is incredible.

Quick Synopsis

A team of more than 3,200 power workers, including resources from out-of-province utilities and contractors, restored power to more than 652,000 customers.

Hydro One saw a record 1,900 broken poles and 5 transmission towers were destroyed

The destruction in Ottawa was worse than the ice storm in 1998.

When rebuilding after a storm, Hydro One prioritizes restoration to bring power back to the greatest number of customers in the shortest period of time. Crews need to repair and rebuild main power lines along with other key pieces of infrastructure before repairs can be made to power lines that serve smaller numbers of customers.

If you see a Hydro One crew please on the road working please wave or say thank you for all that they did to restore a very badly broken system.

Hydro was out for 6 very long days and from personal experience that first shower….was the best ever

Final note, trees that were damaged and not brought down by the storm remain very fragile and as a result may still cause damage to hydro lines hence the usages we have experienced since.

Last Sunday another destructive storm came through our area and has caused extensive damage to areas between Havelock and Kaladar south toward Tweed and Kingston.  The area looks like a war zone and in fact other then some sections of Mazzinaw this damage almost looks worse than the May 21st 2022 storm.

* **UPDATE (see email from the Township below in green)**



**Free Brush/Yard Waste Disposal**

**The Township of North Frontenac is pleased to support ongoing cleanup efforts post-windstorm with a FREE drop off program for brush and yard waste.**

**Starting on Monday May 15, 2023 we will accept brush and yard waste free of charge from property owners with a Waste Site Permit (blue card) at the Road 506, Plevna and Mississippi Waste Sites during our regular hours of operation. We anticipate running this program until November 1, 2023. Waste Site locations and hours are available on the Township’s website www.northfrontenac.com .**

**Note the regular charge for Construction / Demolition Waste will still apply.**

**Work safe.**

**D.**Internet/Cell Coverage Update

 Unfortunately, this topic has no clear start nor end dates in sight.  The ECON project worth 400M was not funded by the provincial or federal governments.  In its place there is agreement to put 68M into our area for high-speed broadband internet.  The end date is 2025 however no details have been made available or timelines of work to be down.  Good news?  Harlowe is mentioned in the numerous towns slated for this project.

The cell coverage gap project is still underway with ECON spearheading the work between Rogers, Provincial and Federal governments.  This project is worth 300M with Rogers covering 151M.  The project is a combination of upgrading existing towers in the area with new upgraded equipment and building approximately 170 new towers.  The latter is a time-consuming venture that takes 2.5 years to accomplish.  Val Noges mentioned that in speaking with a Bell Tech, it may be 4-5 years before we see better services.

* Duncan added that these improvements will not be for the land line or DSL service.

E. FOCA Update;

**Elimination of Seasonal Rate;**

In summary the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has approved Hydro One’s proposed 10 year phased in plan that is to begin January 1st, 2023.  This approach is intended to limit the total bill increase for the affected seasonal customers, including those in with low average monthly consumption, to 10% (maximum) per year.

Vacancy Tax or the Underused Housing Tax

On June 9, 2022, the [**Underused Housing Tax (UHT)**](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/consultations/2021/tax-unproductive-use-housing-non-resident-non-canadian-owners/underused-housing-tax.html), a new bill that levies an annual one per cent tax on foreign-owned residential properties considered underused, received royal assent.

Similar, to B.C.’s Speculation and Vacancy Tax, the UHT is designed to prevent non-Canadian residents from buying Canadian real estate and driving up housing costs without actually living there.

When the tax was first proposed in August 2021, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) was concerned that secondary property owners, such as cottagers, might be unintentionally caught in the crosshairs. If cottages fell under the definition of underused properties, owners would have to pay the tax.

“Without absolute clarity (being worked out currently in Committee hearings for Bill C-8) there was the fear that absentee [and] part-time, non-Canadian cottage residents would be subjected to a tax that was actually intended to address urban affordability and housing shortages,” said Terry Rees, president of FOCA.

The UHT legislation clarifies that the tax doesn’t apply to any Canadian residents, regardless of the number of properties they own within the country. The tax only applies to foreign owners. This means the bill could still impact Americans who own cottages in Canada.

However, when defining a “residential property,” the legislation’s language specifically targets detached homes, duplexes, triplexes, semi-detached homes, rowhouse units, and residential condos. It does not mention cottages or recreational properties. Read the final version of the bill [**here**](https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-8/royal-assent).

The bill also exempts properties that are not suitable for year-round use. This means that if a cottage is zone residential but not winterized and can only be used for a portion of the year, it is exempt from the tax. Properties being rented out to someone on a long-term basis at a “fair rent” price are also exempt. Otherwise, the owner is expected to occupy the property for a minimum of six months a year.

**F. Safe Boating Update**

Transport Canada is proposing [changes to modernize pleasure craft licensing](https://letstalktransportation.ca/pcl), which will come into effect in the winter of 2023.

**Proposed changes to pleasure craft licencing include:**

* Introducing a five-year validity period for pleasure craft licences (PCL).
* Expanding the *Small Vessel Regulations* to include all pleasure crafts equipped with motors of 10 hp or more and all pleasure crafts (including all power-driven and sail-alone vessels) above six metres in length.
* Owners must notify Transport Canada of a name or address change and of a sale or transfer of a vessel within 30 days.
* Easier cancellation of a pleasure craft licence, if a lifetime PCL holder fails to apply, a PCL holder fails to renew a PCL, or a PCL holder wishes to remove their pleasure craft from service.
* Introducing a $15 service fee to process an application to obtain, renew, or duplicate a PCL.

**Regional Updates**

**North Frontenac Township**

 Oct 24th is the Municipal and School Board Elections day.  If you are inclined to run for a seat, either as Mayor or on council Nomination day is Friday August 19th where you are able to file your papers to run for a seat on the council.  With the unfortunate passing of our Ward 1 member, Fred Perry in July there will be a new council member for our ward.

* Update: Our new Mayor is Gerry Lichty and our Ward 1 Councillors are Wayne Good and Stephanie Regent

**Voluntary  Septic Inspection Program**

The program is still progressing in 2022 with surveys mailed to property owners and inspections underway.

**Re-Use Centre**

The centre is now open so if you have been saving up your donations you can now drop them off either on Wednesday 9 to 1 or Saturday 12 to 5.

**Dark Sky Preserve**

Is operational and a great place to view the comet and upcoming meteor showers.

<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/open-for-business/dark-sky-preserve.aspx>

**Pickleball**:  the courts have been resurfaced this year with mixed league on Tuesday, Thurs and Saturday.  Monday ladies drop in.  If you would like to try let me know.

​​

​​**Federal Election Result**

Our member of Parliament is Scott Reid

[scott.reid@parl.gc.ca](mailto:scott.reid@parl.gc.ca)

Main office - Carleton Place   
224 Bridge Street   
Carleton Place, Ontario   
K7C 3G9

Telephone: 613-257-8130   
Fax: 613-257-4371

**Provincial Election Results**

Our new MPP is John Jordan.  His current role is Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care

[John.Jordan@pc.ola.org](mailto:John.Jordan@pc.ola.org)

**Constituency office**

Unit 1  
105 Dufferin St.

Perth,

ON

K7H 3A5

Tel.

613-267-8239

Fax

613-267-7398

**​**​

H**.** Lake Association Items

Boat wake reminder;

A reminder to all to be careful with the shorelines when you are out on your boat cruising, please stay away from the shoreline.

Fireworks reminder;

While North Frontenac has not restricted the use of fireworks, unlike other regions like Central and East Frontenac, please be cautious on the use of fireworks.

Fire Restrictions;

Information about fire/burn restrictions are available on the North Frontenac site as well as by calling the local fire department hotline 613 336 1851.

Road speed;

Please be careful and try to adhere to the suggested speed of 25KMPH

**4. Treasurer’s Report – Val Noges**

See report attached for details

Val provided a 4 year comparison. Key line are the cottage fees and the $9,000 is reflected by a catch up and increase in fees from $150 - $200 which was effective 2021.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BIG GULL LAKE (WEST) COTTAGE ASSOCIATION** | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE** | | | |  |  |  |
| **For the Year Ending July 31, 2022** | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **2018/2019** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Revenue:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cottage Association Dues |  | 6,000.00 | 6,309.72 | 5,860.47 | 9,050.71 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenses:** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Road Maintenance |  | 5,695.06 | 5,763.92 | 4,902.06 | 5,134.93 |  |
| Road Association Liability Insurance |  | 936.36 | 936.36 | 936.36 | 964.44 |  |
| Water Quality Testing (Coliplates) |  | 148.84 |  |  |  |  |
| Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association Dues (FOCA) |  | 272.00 | 275.50 | 305.00 | 305.00 |  |
| Banking Fees |  | 42.90 | 7.61 | 22.42 | 25.45 |  |
| Photocopy, Postage and Mailing |  | - | - | 86.94 | - |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7,095.16 | 6,983.39 | 6,252.78 | 6,429.82 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Excess of Revenues over Expenditures** |  | (1,095.16) | (673.67) | (392.31) | 2,620.89 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Opening Fund Balance |  | 4,152.76 | 3,057.60 | 2,383.93 | 1,991.62 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Closing Fund Balance** |  | 3,057.60 | 2,383.93 | 1,991.62 | 4,612.51 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Motion to accept financial report; Pat Ogilvie and Duncan Hardie

**5a. Water Quality Report** – Jim Ogilvie and Duncan Hardie

See report attached for details from Jim.

Comments from Jim;

Water Quality is exceptional from a chemistry side. The report was sent to all members prior to the meeting and will be added to these minutes. Duncan was voluntold and volunteered to be our lake’s representative to monitor the Spiney Water Flea as well as the Zebra Mussels. The belief is that we don’t have enough calcium in the water for the Zebra Mussels to build a hard shell to survive.

This year there is more disturbance in the water “turbidity” so the clarity of the depth is not as clear as previous years. Normally we get about 4-5 meter depth and this is more like 3 meters.  The report that was sent to all has 10 years of data.

**Big Gull Lake Water Quality Report 2020**

**Total Phosphorus (TP)**

TP concentrations are ideally used to interpret lake nutrient status since phosphorus is the element that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. Increases in phosphorus may decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth. In extreme cases, algal blooms will affect the aesthetics of the lake and/or cause taste and odour problems in the water. TP concentrations are express as micrograms per liter (µg/L) also known as parts per billion (ppb).

Many limnologists place lakes into three broad categories with respect to nutrient status. Lakes with less that 10 µg/L TP are considered oligotrophic. These are dilute, less productive lakes that rarely experience nuisance algal blooms. Lakes with TP between 10 and 20 µg/L are termed mesotrophic (preferred / good range) and are in the middle with respect to trophic status. These lakes show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and less productive at the bottom end of the scale or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentrations near 20 µg/L. Lakes over 20 µg/L are classified as eutrophic and may exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

There are four sampling locations on Big Gull lake:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * East Long Island | * Pinnacle Point |
| * Tan Bark Bay | * West Bay, deep spot |

**Table 1: 15-year Baseline of Phosphorous data 2003 – 2018 (µg/L)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | **Number of Samples** | **Range**  **µg/L** | **Average Total Phosphorous**  **µg/L** |
| East Long Island | 2003 to 2018 | 32 | 6.1 – 26.0 | 12.5 |
| Pinnacle Point | 2003 to 2018 | 34 | 5.5 – 19.2 | 9.2 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 32 | 7.2 – 14.5 | 8.8 |
| West Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 32 | 8.2 – 22.7 | 12.1 |
| **Average** |  |  |  | **10.7** |

**Table 2: 2020 Phosphorous data Big Gull Lake (µg/L)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | ***Number of Samples*** | **Raw Data**  **ug/L** | **Average Total Phosphorous**  **µg/L** |
| East Long Island | 2020 | 0 | NDA | NDA |
| Pinnacle Point | 2020 | 2 | 10.8 / 9.6 | 10.2 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2020 | 2 | 6.4 / 6.2 | 6.3 |
| West Bay | 2020 | 2 | 9.6 / 9.6 | 9.6 |
| **Average** |  |  |  | **8.7** |

This phosphorous data shows that Big Gull Lake is consistently in a good range, running both sides of the 10.0 ug/L guideline.

**Calcium**

Each freshwater lake has an ion balance that can be used to assess and predict the “health” of the aquatic environment. This ion balance is controlled primarily by three anions (negative) and four cations (positive).

**Table 3: Main Anions and Cations contributing to the Ion Balance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Anion** | **Percent** | **Cation** | **Percent** |
| Bicarbonate (HCO3- ) | 73 | Calcium ( Ca+2 ) | 63 |
| Sulphate ( SO4-2 ) | 16 | Magnesium ( Mg+2 ) | 17 |
| Chlorine ( Cl- ) | 10 | Sodium (Na+2 ) | 15 |
|  |  | Potassium ( K+ ) | 4 |

Ion balance means the sum of the negative ions equals the sum of the positive cations when expressed as equivalents. These ions are usually present at concentrations expressed as mg/L (parts per million, or [ppm](http://www.lakeaccess.org/glossary.html)) whereas other ions such as the nutrients phosphate, nitrate, and ammonium are present at µg/L (parts per billion, or [ppb](http://www.lakeaccess.org/glossary.html)) levels.

In freshwater, the concentration of calcium ions is generally in the range of 0 – 100 mg/L. If the concentration is less than 5 mg/L, (very soft water / low alkalinity) then the ability of that water body to support life is dramatically decreased. Low levels of calcium can be a factor in oligotrophy. Alternately, high levels of calcium in water (hard water) are associated with various diseases in fish, ceramic staining and hot water tank / pipe scaling.

T**able 4: 15-Year Baseline of Calcium data (mg/L)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | **Number of Samples** | **Range**  **mg/L** | **Average Total Calcium**  **mg/L** |
| East Long Island | 2003 to 2018 | 10 | 8.9 – 10.3 | 9.6 |
| Pinnacle Point | 2003 to 2018 | 9 | 9.0 – 10.6 | 9.7 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 9 | 8.7 – 10.0 | 9.3 |
| West Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 10 | 10.1 – 11.6 | 10.7 |
| **Average** |  |  |  | **9.9** |

**Table 5: 2020 Calcium data Big Gull Lake (mg/L)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | **Number of Samples** | **Average Total Calcium**  **mg/L** |
| East Long Island | 2020 | 0 | NDA |
| Pinnacle Point | 2020 | 1 | 10.0 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2020 | 1 | 8.9 |
| West Bay | 2020 | 1 | 11.1 |
| **Average** |  |  | **10.0** |

As shown, the Calcium levels are again consistently into the mesotrophic (good quality) range (greater than 5 mg/L).

**Secchi Disk**

The Secchi depth is a measure of lake water clarity, and is measured with a black-and-white disk called a Secchi disk). This disk is lowered into the water and then slowly pulled up. When the disk is visibly detected, the depth is recorded. Water clarity (or transparency) is affected by the amount of sunlight that can penetrate into the lake. Thus, water clarity is impacted by fluctuations in algae, detritus, dissolved organic carbon, and other suspended solids in a lake. These, in turn, may be influenced by shoreline development, climate change, acid rain and invasive species. Water clarity impacts the depth at which plant (including algae) photosynthesis can occur.

**Table 6: 15-Year Baseline of Secchi Depth (meters)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | **Number of Samples** | **Range**  **Meters** | **Average Depth**  **Meters** |
| East Long Island | 2003 to 2018 | 175 | 3.0 – 6.0 | 4.4 |
| Pinnacle Point | 2003 to 2018 | 115 | 2.7 – 6.3 | 4.9 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 96 | 2.6 – 5.6 | 4.1 |
| West Bay | 2003 to 2018 | 164 | 3.4 – 4.5 | 3.8 |
| **Average** |  |  |  | **4.3** |

**Table 7: 2020 Secchi Data Big Gull Lake (meters)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Time Period** | **Number of Samples** | **Average Depth**  **Meters** |
| East Long Island | 2020 | 0 | NDA |
| Pinnacle Point | 2020 | 13 | 4.3 |
| Tan Bark Bay | 2020 | 4 | 3.3 |
| West Bay | 2020 | 10 | 4.8 |
| **Average** |  |  | **4.1** |

There are no standards for secchi disk data, rather data interpretation is based on trends. The 15-year average for the four consistent sampling locations is 4.3 meters. The 2020 average for 3 locations is 4.1 meters. The East Long Island samples were not collected, possibly as a result of Covid 19. Overall, the trend appears to be consistent and does not identify any problem.

As a note, secchi depth data can be significantly altered by heavy storms that stir up the bottom of shallow areas and increase the suspended solids, resulting in lower numbers.

5b. **Water Quality Report** – Duncan Hardie

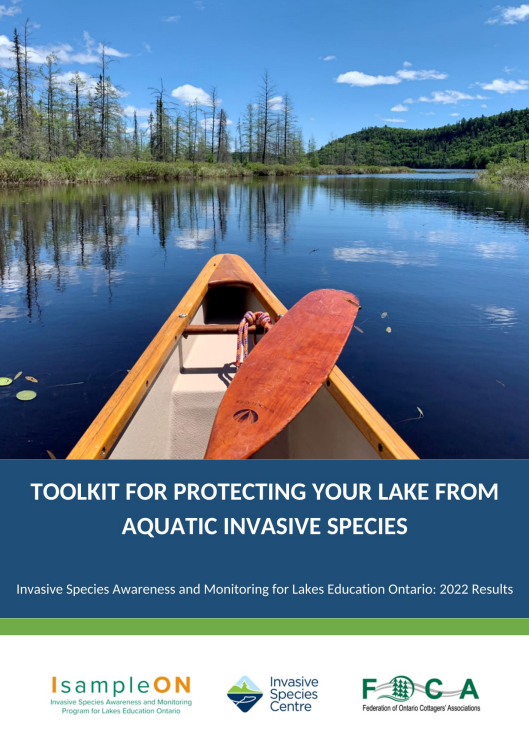
Duncan talked about how our lake is in zone 18 and the Fish and Wildlife Ministry are noticing changes in the water. They expect in the next 10 years we might see a change in our lake. More small and large mouth bass and less pickerel and this is due to temperatures rising. As our end of the lake is shallower, this change is likely to happen at our end first.

Duncan will be doing a Coli Plate test for 2023. It was suggested that a test should happen close to Bayview Resort. Duncan mentioned we get an Algae Bloom every year however it is insignificant.

Duncan also talked about starting to see the Carolinian in the aquatic and forest of South Ontario. It is still far away and not a concern at this time. As we are seeing changes in the climate as well as weather, it is unfortunately going to get worse. We will see an extension of tornado valley into our area. Many of our trees our mature so each of us have to look at the potential impact in severe storms to protect personal property. Sometimes it is healthier to make room for smaller trees to grow. Take the time to look at the canopy of your trees to see which could be removed.

* Audrey commented that there is an increase in the Manitoba Maple and it should be removed if found as it grows like weed. The other maple is the Stripped Maple, the leaf is like a giant tulip and will also crowd the younger good trees and prevent them from growing.
* Nancy also mentioned that there is a strangling vine which looks pretty with purple flowers and it is invasive and strangles vegetation. We have not seen it in this area yet.
* Duncan also mentioned there is a growing population of garter snakes, please do not kill them, they eat mice…

**Update from Feb 2023**



INTRODUCTION

Aquatic invasive species are a major threat to the economic and ecological integrity of our waters. Early detection is essential to protect our lakes and rivers from the negative impacts aquatic invaders have on these key ecosystems.

The Invasive Species Centre partnered with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) to help community members prevent, detect, and monitor aquatic invasive species in inland lakes.

In 2022, the Invasive Species Awareness and Monitoring Program for Lakes Education in Ontario (IsampleON) trained volunteers to collect water samples from 29 lakes in Ontario watersheds to test them for the presence of invasive mussels and spiny water flea.

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY SCIENCE

The success of this project depended on the participation of our network of community scientists. This program was created to increase local awareness of aquatic invasive species and encourage public involvement in preventing their spread to inland lakes. Since it’s inception, we have sampled 54 lakes in Ontario.

We would like to thank all volunteers for their participation and dedication to invasive species awareness and prevention through this program.

METHOD OF SAMPLING

FOCA connected with lake associations through their membership, sent 29 sampling kits and through training webinars and materials, 58 volunteers from 29 associations were trained prior to sampling. Materials sent included nets, gloves, pipettes, sampling jars and additional items. Volunteers collected three samples from their lake. It was recommended that samples be taken from public boat launches, or marinas (locations with high boat traffic), the deepest location in the lake and one from the windward size of lakes (veligers and spiny water flea are passive swimmers and can be detected on the windward side of lakes). Using the materials provided, volunteers used plankton haul nets and their boats to collect samples and ship them back to the Invasive Species Centre for analysis.

1

MEET THE INVADERS

ZEBRA & QUAGGA MUSSELS SPINY WATERFLEA 

Native to Eurasia and brought to the Great Lakes via ballast water. These mussels are typically found attached to objects, surfaces, or other mussels by threads extending from underneath the shells. The larvae are highly mobile as they are free-floating in water. This stage contributes to their rapid dispersal throughout the waterways subsequently leading to the colonization of water supply pipes of hydroelectric and nuclear power plants, public water supply plants, and industrial facilities. Zebra and quagga mussels primarily consume phytoplankton and zooplankton which may have effects on the food web and fish.

Spiny waterflea is also native to Eurasia and was introduced into the Great Lakes from ballast water from ships. Now, spiny waterflea is present in all five Great Lakes and in over 100 nearby inland lakes. They are best known for their barbed tail, used as a defense mechanism to deter predation by small fish. In total, spiny waterflea are just visible at approximately 1.5 cm in length. This invasive zooplankton outcompetes native species for food, which can have cascading impacts to the entire food web. Jelly-like masses of spiny waterfleas impact recreation and commercial fishing when they are caught in fishing equipment and commercial netting and trawling lines.

2

SUMMARY OF WATER SAMPLING RESULTS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lake** | **Veligers Detected** | **Spiny Waterflea Detected** |
| Round Lake | Positive | Negative |
| Canonto Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Bennett &Fagan Lakes | Positive | Negative |
| Fortescue Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Billings Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Canning Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Steenburg Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Salerno Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Chandos Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Crego Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Kashwakamak Lake | Negative | Positive |
| Glamor Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Horseshoe Crotch Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Temagami Lake | Negative | Negative |
| **Big Gull Lake (West)** | **Negative** | **Negative** |
| Farquhar Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Lake Mazinaw | Negative | Negative |
| Catchacoma Lake | Negative | Positive |
| Mary Lake | Negative | Positive |
| Lake Healey | Negative | Positive |
| Three Mile Lake | Negative | Positive |
| Rankin Lake | Negative | Positive |
| Trout Lake (Madawaska) | Negative | Positive |
| Lake Manitouwabing | Negative | Negative |
| Duck Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Trout Lake (Hoskin) | Positive | Positive |
| Menominee Lake | Negative | Negative |
| Lake Vernon | Negative | Positive |
| Growler Lake (Bat/Bear) | Negative | Negative |

WHAT DO YOUR LAKE RESULTS MEAN?

Generally, when zebra mussel veligers are first detected in a lake, there is about a two-year period before adult mussels become noticeable. Thus, if veligers are discovered in your lake, it will give you a chance to heed the warning and prepare for the negative impacts of the zebra mussel. However, it cannot be overemphasized that a negative result is NOT a guarantee that zebra mussels, spiny waterflea and other invading species do not exist in your lake, proper precautions should always be taken in order to prevent the potential spread of invading aquatic species.

3

It is important to note the calcium levels in your lake as veligers require certain levels to build their shells and survive. Lakes with calcium over 25 mg/L are at high risk for mussel survival. Lakes under 25 mg/L are still at high risk, but other factors such as pH can play a role. Calcium levels below 20 mg/L are at a lower risk for survival.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lake** | **Veligers Detected** | **Spiny Waterflea Detected** | **Calcium** |
| Round Lake | Positive | Negative | 33.7 (2021) |
| Canonto Lake | Negative | Negative | Not Available |
| Bennett &Fagan Lakes | Positive | Negative | 28.1 (2012) |
| Fortescue Lake | Negative | Negative | 28.1 (2021) |
| Billings Lake | Negative | Negative | Not Available |
| Canning Lake | Negative | Negative | 23.5 (2012) |
| Steenburg Lake | Negative | Negative | 25.1 (2021) |
| Salerno Lake | Negative | Negative | 22.7 (2021) |
| Chandos Lake | Negative | Negative | 21.6 (2021) |
| Crego Lake | Negative | Negative | 19.2 (2021) |
| Kashwakamak Lake | Negative | Positive | 14.2 (2021) |
| Glamor Lake | Negative | Negative | 14.1 (2021) |
| Horseshoe Crotch Lake | Negative | Negative | 13.9 (2021) |
| Temagami Lake | Negative | Negative | 5.3 (2021) |
| **Big Gull Lake (West)** | **Negative** | **Negative** | **10.8 (2021)** |
| Farquhar Lake | Negative | Negative | 10.2 (2021) |
| Lake Mazinaw | Negative | Negative | 8.9 (2021) |
| Catchacoma Lake | Negative | Positive | 5.8 (2021) |
| Mary Lake | Negative | Positive | 2.8 (2021) |
| Lake Healey | Negative | Positive | 2.2 (2021) |
| Three Mile Lake | Negative | Positive | 5.0 (2021) |
| Rankin Lake | Negative | Positive | 4.8 (2021) |
| Trout Lake (Madawaska) | Negative | Positive | 5.0 (2020) |
| Lake Manitouwabing | Negative | Negative | 4.1 (2021) |
| Duck Lake | Negative | Negative | 3.0 (2019) |
| Trout Lake (Hoskin) | Positive | Positive | 30.1 (2021) |
| Menominee Lake | Negative | Negative | Not Available |
| Lake Vernon | Negative | Positive | 2.3 (2021) |
| Growler Lake (Bat/Bear) | Negative | Negative | 1.7 (2021) |

Calcium Data Source: Lake Partner Program – Sampling Results & Assistance | FOCA

4

POSITIVE: NOW WHAT?

Now that you know invasive mussels are present, the most important actions are to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to neighboring lakes. Make other cottagers on the lake and visitors to the lake aware of the invasion. Add signage at public boat launches that state the presence of invasive mussels and the importance of cleaning, draining and drying your boat and equipment. Consider setting up equipment for boat washing at your public boat launches. Knowledge is key.

The presence of invasive mussels in your lake may also mean some extra work on your part. Invasive mussels can attach to many hard surfaces which can cause clogging of water intake pipes and mechanical issues with boat motors. The good news is there are some tools and strategies you can use to help mitigate some of these consequences.

− Intake lines and foot valve maintenance: Draining and drying water intake lines and foot valves can help reduce the risk of blockages. Freezing lines and foot valves after draining is even more effective than simply drying.

− Water intake pipe filter: Consider a filter for your intake pipes that feed your cottage water supply to prevent mussels from attaching to the inside of the pipe. This works well for year-round cottage use and with planned maintenance.

− Lift motor or boat out of water: After each use, lift your boat motor, propellers and all, up out of the water to decrease the chances of invasive mussels attaching themselves to the motor. Or better yet, consider investing in a boat lift or ramp to completely remove your boat from the water.

− Flush boat motor regularly: Microscopic veligers can be drawn up through the water inlet of the motor and settle inside, causing blockages as it matures. Frequently using a motor flusher or motor muffs can decrease the risk of this occurring.

− Wear water shoes: Mussels can have very sharp shells that hurt to step on, especially for children. Invasive mussels can grow in such abundance they become difficult to avoid. Consider wearing protection on your feet such as water shoes to avoid injury.

Although there are no recommended management options available in Ontario at this time, there is some research and pilot projects being done, in particular in the United States. Check out the Invasive Mussel Collaborative to learn about some of the projects that are underway and some of the hope for management options in the future.

5

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Understand the pathways of introduction

One characteristic of invasive species is how easily they can spread and establish, especially in aquatic environments. Invasive mussels for example, can attach themselves to boats, trailers or fishing equipment, and microscopic villagers can go undetected in the bilge water and live wells. Aquatic invasive plants often reproduce asexually through fragmentation, it only takes a small plant piece attached to a boat prop or trailer and moved to a new area to start to grow and root. For these reasons, it is important to understand that recreational boating can be a vector or pathway for spreading aquatic invasive species.

On January 1st. 2022, the Ontario Government made amendments to the *Invasive Species Act, 2015.* These changes target the boating pathway as a vector of spread for invasive species. Watercraft such as motorboats, rowboats, canoes, punts, sailboats, rafts, or other related equipment may only be transported if drain plugs and other devices used to control drainage of water have been opened or removed. You can find more information and learn more about the regulations surrounding boating as a pathway here.

Clean, Drain, Dry

Clean any plants, mud, mussels and debris from your boat and equipment. Drain all standing water from your bilge, motor and live well. Dry your boat and fishing equipment for 2-7 days and/or disinfect with hot, pressurized water. Below are some common places invasive species may be hiding:

6

Don’t Dump Your Bait

Juvenile fish species can often be difficult to distinguish and invasive fish species such as Asian carp could be present in your bait. It is the responsibility of the angler to learn to identify their bait fish and empty bait buckets at least 30 meters away from the waterbody shoreline on dry land. Learn more about bait regulations in Ontario here.

Don’t Let It Loose

Buy native aquarium and aquapond species and never release into the natural environment. It is against the law to introduce a plant or animal into a waterbody where it is not native. If it isn’t where you got it, it isn’t where it goes! Here are some ways to dispose of pets, plants and aquarium/aquapond waste:

− Try finding them a new home

− Return to your retailer

− Ask a veterinarian about how pets can be humanely euthanized

− Seal them in plastic bags and dispose of in the garbage

Continue monitoring for invasive species

Local residents and cottagers are the first to notice changes in their lakes and forests. Being familiar with the area and its characteristics will help to notice subtle changes as they occur. Have an awareness about you while you are enjoying yourself outside and you might make an early detection.

Learn

Take part in webinars and workshops to learn about the invasive species present or threatening to establish in your area. Learn what features to look for and how to identify invasive species or distinguish them from the native species in your area. There are plenty of resources on the Invasive Species Centre’s website and many past webinars can be found on YouTube as well.

Take Action

Host a community science event to survey your lake for invasive species. This can be a fun way to get everyone involved of all ages and experiences. It’s also great to have a baseline for (a) what invasive species are present, (b) where are they located so you can avoid the area, and (c) to what extent are they spreading. Simply observing to increase awareness can make a large impact.

Please note, should anyone wish to remove or manage any aquatic invasive species, there are rules and regulations in place, and you may need to consult your local Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry offices or experts in the field.

7

DIY Dock Hangers

Continue to monitor for adult zebra or quagga 

mussels by installing dock hangers! All you need is

some rope and a small terracotta pot.

What to do:

1. String the rope through the hole in the

bottom of the pot

2. Tie a knot on the inside to prevent the pot

from falling

3. Hang the pots from your personal dock for a 

season

4. Check regularly for zebra or quagga mussel

establishment

5. Be sure to remove them at the end of the

season to avoid winter damage

Note: You can even use several pots at different

depths along the same rope.

Report sightings of invasive species

Once you have an awareness of your surroundings and an idea of what invasive species to keep an eye out for, make sure you know how to report them.

What you need to make a report:

1. Pictures of the species

2. Location found

3. If possible, identification of what you think it is

Here are a list of places to report invasive species:

− EDDMapS App or Webpage (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System) − iNaturalist App

− Invading Species Awareness Hotline: 1-800-563-7711

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EDDMapS

EDDMapS is a reporting tool developed specifically for invasive species. It is simple to use and there is no need to have previous experience or expertise. Simply take a photo or two, and make a report, even if you are unsure about the identity of the species you found. When a report is made, it is sent directly to experts that confirm the identification. Once the report is verified, it is added to the distribution map. If a report is made of a high priority species (ie. Asian carps, Water Soldier etc.), it enacts a rapid response by authorities and organizations to follow up and work towards eradicating or containing populations before they spread further.

iNaturalist

INaturalist is a more generalized reporting tool used to capture biodiversity. iNaturalist uses Artificial Intelligence to help narrow down an identification, however some knowledge is needed to field through the results. Reports of invasive species can be made through iNaturalist and are then pulled into EDDMapS once they reach Research Grade status.

Continue the conversation

Continue to spread the awareness of invasive species through your networks. Let people know if you have invasive species present in your lake. Talk about it with your friends and family.

− Post signage at public boat launches about Clean, Drain, Dry or about the invaders present.

− Distribute zebra mussel and other invasive species resources at your lake association meetings, local marinas, bait and tackle shops and tourism offices (copies of available brochures are included in the monitoring kit and online sources are provided in the Appendix).

− Encourage other lake residents to install dock hangers on their docks too and check them regularly.

− Write articles on aquatic nuisance species in your association or community news sources.

− Share invasive species related materials on social media (Some great social accounts specific to invasive species include Invasive Species Centre, Invading Species Awareness Program, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Asian Carp Canada, Play Clean Go, NAISMA or NAISMAorg).

9

APPENDIX

Here is a list of many resources available online for more information on invasive mussels, spiny waterflea and other aquatic invasive species.

Government Rules and Regulations:

− Ontario Invasive Species Act, 2015

− Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations

− Ontario Fishing Regulations

Identification Resources:

− Invasive Aquatic Plants - A Quick Reference Guide

− Invasive Invertebrates - A Quick Reference Guide

− Invasive Fish - A Quick Reference Guide

− Bait Fish Primer

Species Resources:

− Invasive Mussels Species Profile

− Spiny Water Flea Species Profile

− ISAP Invasive Mussels Species Profile

− ISAP Spiny Water Flea Species Profile

− ISC Species Profiles

Management Resources:

− Best Management Practices Database

Community Science Opportunities:

− Community Science Program

− Take Action with the ISC

− EDDMapS

− Lake Partner Program – OVERVIEW | FOCA

− Healthy Waterfronts

− Mysterysnail Management and Removal Project

− Operation Bait Bucket

− Volunteer Water Steward Program

− Community Science Tree Check Form

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**6. Road Report** – Duncan Hardie

See report attached for details from the Road Committee

Duncan asked if we were happy with the road and it was a unanimous ‘yes’. Duncan spoke to Ron Nowell and he said our road is one of the best in the area. The suggestion is to deal with the areas that are problematic in the spring 2023. There are a couple of rough spots and we should also look at the culvert on Chimney Point close to the Simpson Cottage.

The culvert at the pond was cleaned out several times by Casey Cuddy. Special thanks to Casey! Duncan is asking for all members to keep an eye on that culvert at the pond. If you see it plugged, let Tina know or anyone on the road committee.

Duncan mentioned that we could use a volunteer for the road committee from Chimney Point. Darcy McCombs at the end of Chimney Point volunteered, thank you!

* Jim Ogilvie mentioned that the A Grade gravel seems to be too high on sand content and washes away quickly.
  + Duncan said that he spokes to Ron Nowell about it and suggested he should look at getting gravel with less sand.
* Question was asked about other grades of gravel. Casey said quarry stone is high grade and more expensive however it will be graded away when doing the road unless it is in specific areas.

Thank you to Casey for clearing the edges of the road to increase visibility.

The projected plan for 2023 is to increase the grade of the gravel in specific areas and the budget range before tax will be not to exceed $5,500. Apparently, there is a new fee related to quarry pits and handling as well as delivery cost. These fees did not apply in previous years.

**August 2022 ROAD REPORT FOR WEST GULL LAKE ASSOCIATION**

During the last week of June 2022 all three roads were graded and crushed "A" gravel applied @ 2 loads on Chimney Point, and 2 loads on Gull Lake Lane and 4 loads on the main road.

Costs to maintain our roads at a maintenance level are challenging as we are well aware of the significant economic pressures of materials and labour.

Ron Nowell our contractor has be able to contain costs at a reasonable level for our association.

Post " THE STORM" most of the obstructions and tree clearing on all three roads was done by Casey, Many thanks !!!

Of note: the main culvert at the marsh in the last few years has been plugged by beavers, etc to the point that no water flows through this culvert.

Asking the association to contact Duncan or George or Casey if this occurs.

**PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION FOR 2023 SEASONAL ROAD CARE**

**Main road maintenance only next year**. During the winter months this road is plowed and traveled the most. In the spring the issues of ponding and pot holes are most evident. Summer road quality is always the best !

Therefore : **Applying between 6-8 loads to main road and grading of all roads in June 2023.**

Estimate : ***$5000.-5300.00***

"A" Gravel one load and delivery at approx 375.00 **\* at 2022 costs**

Grading $1200.00 plus incidental charges **\* at 2022 costs**

The is the most basic maintenance proposal for our roads.

Respectfully, Duncan, Bevan, George Road committee

**7. Other business – members input please**

Tina asked for members to speak up on any topics they would like added/covered in our annual meeting.

* All members present seemed content with the topics covered however if any of you think of anything, please advise Tina.
* Casey wanted to thank everyone who participated in the clean up of trees and debris on the road after the storms.
* Ladies golf league is Wednesday and Men’s league is Tuesday, all are welcomed to join and play when you can.
* Discussion of possible social activities, golf, pickleball, regatta etc…. nothing concrete was laid out
  + There was conversations about a golf tournament followed by a BBQ at Hunters Creek….may be more to come on this

.

**8. Cottage Fees**

Will Remain the same as last year at $200 please either pay using the e-Transfer option provided or you can drop a cheque to 1163 Chimney point lane or you can mail a cheque made out to Big Gull Lake West Cottage Association to ;

Val Noges

79 Woodfield Rd

Toronto, Ontario

M4L 2W5

* e-transfer option using your online banking is to direct an e-transfer to BigGullLake.Treasurer@gmail.com

**9. Election of Association Officers**

**All agreed to remain, however if anyone would like to be part of the board and/or committees please let Tina know.**

**Closing Remarks – Tina Collins**

Thank you again for your overwhelming support and looking forward to what the next season brings.

**Next Meeting is August 6th, 2023 at 10am Location TBD**