



**The Gananoque River Waterways Association**

Box 15 Lyndhurst, ON KOE 1N0 [www.grwa.ca](http://www.grwa.ca)

Member of The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve: [www.fabr.ca](http://www.fabr.ca)

and The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust: [www.tiwit.ca](http://www.tiwit.ca)

April 2008; v.7, #1 of 2

**GRWA welcomes new members from the South Lake and some from Grippen Lake. Because both of these waterbodies are major tributaries to the Gananoque River, it is important to include them and the stakeholders in the Watershed Study. The surveys have been sent to all South Lake property owners and Grippen Lake will be completed in the fall. GRWA hopes to meet these new members at the AGM on July 11.**

**At press time it was hoped that the funding necessary for the initial studies as outlined on p.8, would be announced but it has been delayed so please check the website towards the end of April.**

**Friday July 11 GRWA's AGM  
Lyndhurst Council Chambers**

2 km west of Lyndhurst

6:00 pm refreshments & meet your neighbours

7:00 Annual General Meeting:

speaker; tba

**business includes reports, voting for the Board of Directors, and your questions and concerns about our Waterways which extend from Lyndhurst Dam to Marble Rock Dam.**

**Our voices are the essence and strength of our Association.**

**#1 REDUCE; #2 REUSE; #3 RECYCLE; #4 LANDFILL**

A message from the Township because our landfill sites are becoming too full and it is cheaper to recycle than to expand the sites: All household waste must be contained in clear, see-through bags; personal items may be put in a small white kitchen bag. Any bag containing recyclable items, accepted at the landfill sites, will be refused at the waste site.

[www.townshipleeds.on.ca](http://www.townshipleeds.on.ca) or 659-2415

TLTI Library: New service! All branches now have free public wireless access. So bring in your laptop, have a seat, check your e-mail or surf the net. Just check at the circulation desk for the guest password and to sign up for your library card to use books, computers and more.

[www.ltipl.net](http://www.ltipl.net) or 659-3885

**ShoreLines to you electronically?**

With 101 of the 230 newsletter addresses also now on email, what do those of you who use computers think of having an option to receive it electronically?

**Advantages:**

- 1) use of colour for photos, titles etc.
- 2) cut in half the cost of photocopying and stamps – a saving of about \$125 per issue or \$250/year that could be spent on more worthwhile projects
- 3) easier corrections and updates
- 4) no restraints to fit it into 4 or 6 pages ( i.e. every printed page is filled double sided so as not to waste paper/trees); electronic version could include more although for those who want the printed copy, the double-sided pages must remain
- 5) about 3 hours less time to print, stamp, and stuff those 101 envelopes

**Process to think about:**

- 1) Updating email addresses becomes more of a responsibility of the member as opposed to confirming the physical address through tax records.
  - 2) Should GRWA actually send it in pdf format OR put it on the website with a password and then email members to let them know it is ready?
  - 3) Inserts are sometimes only printed on paper but these are increasingly becoming available on other websites because of the expense of printing.
- Comments to Bonnie at [www.grwa.ca](http://www.grwa.ca) "CONTACT"**

## **Bald Eagles on Red Horse Lake**

On a beautiful [2007] October morning members of the Leeds County Stewardship Council, and employees of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Hydro One got together to put up a nesting platform for Bald Eagles on Red Horse Lake. The materials for the project were generously provided by Bud Andress and the St Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group.

Bald Eagles were once quite common in southern Ontario. A combination of human disturbance, loss of habitat and lake pollution led to a dramatic reduction in nesting pairs. From the early 1980s, coincident with a significant reduction in the use of toxic chemicals, the eagles' natural reproduction rates began to recover.

Today, while Bald Eagles have recovered in most regions they have failed to return to some historic nesting locations, such as Charleston and Red Horse Lakes. In Ontario the Bald Eagle remains a provincially endangered species south of the French/Mattawa Rivers.

The underutilization of the Leeds County habitat by bald eagles is difficult to understand as there are large tracts of undisturbed forests and many suitable nesting trees. Recent sightings of Bald Eagles in the vicinity of Charleston, Red Horse and Singleton Lakes has increased optimism that they may yet return to the area to nest.

Thanks to Martin Streit,  
"Leeds County Stewardship Council Annual Report 2007" p 11; [www.ontariostewardship.org/leeds](http://www.ontariostewardship.org/leeds)

## **Phosphate –free Products for healthier waters**

Cleaning products, especially detergent for dishwashers, often contain phosphates, a fertilizer for algae blooms. Now all the Loblaws stores, including the Lansdowne Freshmart will be carrying *PC Green* phosphate-free dishwashing detergent.

Also at the Lansdowne Freshmart, with thanks to the Charleston Lake Association, is another environmentally- friendly range of products, *Nature Clear*. These are made in Ontario and include shampoo as well as phosphate-free dishwasher detergent.

## **Protecting our ground/drinking water is everyone's responsibility.**

Well Aware, [www.wellaware.ca](http://www.wellaware.ca), is an Ontario organization that trains people to assess wells. We are fortunate to have REAL (Rideau Environmental Action League) which through its Lanark Leeds Green Community organization conducts free, non-regulatory, confidential home visits. Info:

REAL; [www.realaction.ca](http://www.realaction.ca) "LL Green"  
"Well Aware Visits" or 283-9500

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority  
Source Protection Area 546-4228 or  
1-877-956-2722; [www.cataraquiregion.on.ca](http://www.cataraquiregion.on.ca)

Thanks to Bill Hallen, Charleston Lake Association.

**A Lifelong Learning Project  
Wednesday April 30, 2008;  
Lyndhurst Library, 6:30 to 8:00 pm;**  
Spring is the right time to ensure that your well is healthy and safe. Join the **Well Aware team from REAL** as they help you to explore the best way to protect your drinking water. 483-3889 or  
[lakesandislandsproject@yahoo.ca](mailto:lakesandislandsproject@yahoo.ca)

## **USE IT, MAINTAIN IT OR ABANDON IT**

When it comes to wells, the best policy is as the title says because an old, unused or improperly maintained well can be a direct path for contaminants to reach your source of drinking water or your neighbours'. Besides the risk to our drinking water supply and groundwater, unused wells also pose a physical hazard to people and animals.

Old wells must be properly abandoned, plugged and sealed in a process called decommissioning. Just filling the well with debris or stones does not create a proper seal and will not prevent the flow of contaminated runoff or surface water into the well and from there into our groundwater supplies. In fact, in Ontario, wells that are not used or not maintained for future use are legally required by the Ministry of the Environment to be decommissioned by the well owner.

If you have a well that you're not using now, but might use in the future, you must maintain it like any other working well. Work on wells in Ontario must be carried out by a licensed well technician/well contractor licensed under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

## From the GRWA President

Hello to all our members; and welcome, Spring!

The precipitation we craved for many months arrived at last in the form of snow—and more snow. And with spring, “It’s newsletter time, so kindly bestir yourself!”

The GRWA is humming along nicely, in concert with A2A, CRCA, Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, Leeds County Stewardship Council, the Upper and Lower Beverley Lake and Charleston Lake Associations, et al. mostly for The Watershed Project. So I can relax momentarily, listen to the music, and reflect on what the River has meant to me for 35 years.

A kaleidoscope of events plays out in my mind, as I suspect it does in each one of yours.

- After we existed happily for years without either phone or electricity, our neighbour Dale did the necessary research, pulled us together and arranged for Ontario Hydro to hook us up.

And we saw that it was good.

- Some years later, given our aging population, Dale convinced us of the wisdom of installing phone lines “for emergency use.”

And we saw that it was good.

But after that we rested and had some fun.

Each summer, our little group of cottagers north of Gananoque Lake met to discuss whether and where to spread gravel on our common road. Once that business was done, we cavorted. One year we played horseshoes and clucked as we performed the chicken dance. We managed to surprise our oldest member, Percy, on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. The men worked together too: spreading gravel, hauling away “islands” of cattails. The women fed everyone. Children came, and then the grandchildren.

My husband and I no longer live on the River but instead on a small lake with easy highway access. We are not far from our old neighbours as the crow flies (or the loon or the heron). And we have found new, good neighbours.

But the Gananoque River runs on and plays its tune in our hearts. We, like all of you, are committed to keeping the River flowing clean and strong.

I wish for you all: good neighbours, healthy vegetation, delightful wildlife, clean lakes and rivers. If we all become involved, to even a small degree, we can make it happen.

Blessed be,  
Barbara

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**Wednesday April 30, 2008; Lyndhurst Library,  
6:30 to 8:00 pm; Join the Well Aware team  
from REAL to ensure that your well is  
Healthy and safe. 483-3889 or  
[lakesandislandsproject@yahoo.ca](mailto:lakesandislandsproject@yahoo.ca)**

**April 25 to May 31 wild turkey hunting season.  
MNR info & licenses: 1-800-288-1155**

**May 17 & 26 Weekends  
Thousand Islands Arts Tour “Up The  
Garden Path” 659-3874 [www.tiarts.org](http://www.tiarts.org)**

**May 24 8:00 to 5:00 & May 25 12:00 to 5:00  
Escott Spring Thing:**

**THE THING FOR EVERYONE**

**Escott Town Hall, Springfield House & Library  
1365 Cty Rd 2, at corner of Escott-Rockport Rd  
659-3885 or [www.ltipl.net](http://www.ltipl.net)**

**May 31, all day; Lansdowne  
Fire Dept. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; pancake breakfast,  
Sparky, fire activity challenge for children & more**

**June 7; Reopening of Kendrick &  
Centennial Parks; program tba**

**Lansdowne Farmers’ Market  
Fridays, starting mid June, 1:00 – 5:00 or so  
new location – FAIRGROUNDS; Joy 659-3785**

**Jul & Aug Frontenac Arch Biosphere  
Nature Day Camp for (grand)children  
ages 6 to 11 at Landon Bay on The Parkway;  
382-2719 or [www.fabr.ca/naturecamp.html](http://www.fabr.ca/naturecamp.html)**

**July 1, Canada Day in Seeley’s Bay  
Boat flotilla, BBQ, fireworks; 387-4041**

**July 11, GRWA’s AGM  
6:00 refreshments & meet your neighbours  
7:00 Annual General Meeting  
Municipal Offices just west of Lyndhurst**

**Lansdowne Fair, July 17 – 20  
A Friendly Fair for Friendly Folks; 659-2399**

**Aug. 23 Household Hazardous Waste Depot  
8:30 -2:00 South Leeds Garage, Cty Rd 3 just  
north of Lansdowne; paint, cleaners, aerosol cans,  
pesticides, compact fluorescent bulbs (which  
contain small amounts of mercury)  
613-342-9246 ext. 12416**

# GRWA IS HISTORY

You may have noticed an increasing number of articles on the historical side of the Waterways. GRWA is recognizing the importance of this by seeking out your stories to share. Michael O'Connor is the GRWA rep to the Leeds and the 1000 Islands Historical Society, an organization with a long history of its own. A membership of \$10 gives monthly meetings, newsletters etc. More info: Connie Burns, PO Box 332 Lansdowne, K0E 1L0 or Bill Boulton 659-3586.

In the 2006 Official Plan, the Township's Municipal Heritage Committee (MHC) came into being and below is a letter from that committee.

The Leeds and Thousand Islands Municipal Heritage Committee is comprised of township residents who are volunteers advising council on local heritage matters and assist the Council in carrying out its heritage conservation program. The Committee is currently compiling an inventory of architecturally, culturally or historically significant sites and structures in the township in accordance with the new Official Plan. These properties will be listed in the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties. The purpose of the list is to collect information to assist us in understanding the scope of our Heritage resources in the Township and thus to assist the Council and Municipal Staff in their planning activities. Inclusion on the list does not constitute any kind of official designation and imposes no legal obligations on the owner. Further information regarding the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties can be found at the ON Ministry of Culture website at: <http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/culdiv/heritage/index.html> .

So far, about 107 letters have been sent to Township property owners indicating that the property in question is to be listed in an inventory of heritage resources. We are happy to report that property owners' responses have been very positive and in some cases very enthusiastic. **Notably absent from the inventory however, are any of the cottages [and other sites or structures] from the lakes and rivers of the Township.** We are contacting your organization and other similar groups to solicit your assistance in compiling a list of appropriate properties for inclusion in the inventory.

We would like to verify the accuracy of historical and/or architectural details regarding your property. If you can contribute information regarding your property such as: associated historical events or persons, the builder or architect, dates of construction or renovations, and especially early photos, we would be very appreciative. Please contact one of the Co-chairs listed below. Each property owner will be contacted through a letter prior to the listing of the property so that they will be aware of the process

If you have any questions or the Heritage Committee can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. **We can provide you with information regarding a variety of issues including restoration and repair, maintenance, sources for funding, and historical and architectural research.** If you should wish to investigate Designation for your property, with the various benefits that entails, we can assist you in that process. We are also very interested in your views and concerns regarding the heritage of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and encourage you to share them with us either by email, regular mail or by attending a Municipal Heritage Committee meeting. Please visit: [www.townshipleeds.on.ca](http://www.townshipleeds.on.ca) "Services/ Committees"

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Burtch  
(613) 923-5947  
[kajo@ripnet.com](mailto:kajo@ripnet.com)

Pierre Mercier  
613)659-3785  
[tapawing@1000island.net](mailto:tapawing@1000island.net)

## COTTAGE NAMES, a continuing saga

**Mike and Maureen Brown, who have a cottage on an Island in Red Horse Lake, have "been struggling with this for years. Hopefully one day I'll come up with an appropriate name." In the meantime its nomenclature is simply "Mike's Island."**

**N.B. Blueberry Island, just north of The Crank, is Crown Land according to MNR.**

## GRWA Members Celebrate Special Birthdays

**Percy Vaughan** who is **90 years young** in June, resides much of the year with his wife, Teresa, and daughter Jill at "Belvedere" his cottage about half way between The Crank and Lost Bay. It is atop the hill that is almost murder to climb, but with that magnificent view from which it takes its name. This year also marks 35 years on The River. According to Jill, "Mom and Dad were considering acquiring a hobby property for retirement. The next part is very Ottawa, because Dad used to ride the bus to work with Bill Dormer, and in one conversation Dad asked about Bill's camping vacation. Bill explained he had acquired a waterfront lot from his uncle (Glenn Bracken) and Dad asked if there were any left. Dad quickly lost his enthusiasm when he saw what he called a 'rockpile' but Mom leapt at the opportunity and it's since been 35 years of a labour of love. Maybe a rockpile [on the Gananoque Waterway] is the secret to long and happy retirement...."

**Griffin's Lakeside Cottages & Lodge** is celebrating **80 years** as a landmark at the south end of Gananoque Lake on the same location that "old John and Meriah Griffin had settled in the early 1800s making their living off the land by fishing, trapping and hunting." The Griffin descendants always "took in fishermen" until the fire in 1929 destroyed the business and Will Griffin had to start over. From the single cottage that arose from those ashes, with the help of family, the business has flourished over the years. Great employees and outstanding guides attract the guests, primarily from the US, some of whom have been coming for 4 and 5 generations. The Griffin family continues the tradition with Bob and his wife Cathy now in charge providing warm welcomes along with their daughters, Rachel and Caitlin. Their cousins, Lawrence and Earl are the part of the excellent guiding group. "Vera, Ern's partner, [until his death in 2003]...at 91 continues to offer advice on pie making, her forte for 70 years." All those involved work long hours with dedication and the pleasure of a job in a family setting. "Seeing others enjoy and participate in this experience brings a lot of laughs, and simply sharing what we have right outside our door is one of our great pleasures."

**Shawmere**, the family resort on Red Horse Lake, is **70 years old this year**. Chuck Shaw is its current



Shawmere Hotel, Red Horse lake, 1940

renowned and knowledgeable owner. His father, Bill, was the carpenter at Wick's-Pick Lodge on Singleton Lake in the early 30s but then bought the Argyle Hotel on Red Horse in 1938 when it was a men's fishing resort with John Haskins as the usual guide manned the oars and cooked the shore lunches. After WW II, he developed a design for a flat-bottom plywood boat that was perfect for the newly developed outboard motors or for oars. The old hotel was replaced with housekeeping cottages and renamed and has since evolved into a family/fishing mecca that has appealed to generations, a few of whom have bought properties in the area and are also GRWA members. Bill had married his landlord's daughter, Elizabeth Bryan. Chuck's brother, Art is the local historian par excellence and their mother, 'Betty' Shaw, who lives on an adjoining property, is the GRWA honorary life member,

having been one of the original founders of our Association in 1963.

Editor's Note: A special thanks is owed to Glenn J. Lockwood for his book The Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne; the Making of Community on the Gananoque River Frontier 1796-1996. Some of the information in the articles is from this excellent book which is for sale at the Township offices for \$25 (I bought mine for \$49 for the cottage but then bought a second one on sale to have at home.)

**When you are at the Township office, pick up a copy of the new 2008 Recreation Guide to have all the latest information of the many services, events and recreational activities in the Township and the Town of Gananoque.**

## ORANGE WARREN

Orange lived on the shore of the Gananoque River for over 90 years. Named Orange because he was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1896, Orangeman's Day, he was a man of many talents. A carpenter, mason, electrician and for a while the building inspector for the Township, Orange was a husband and father, a poet, and a boatbuilder, trapper, hunter and fishing guide.

As a young man he was hired to make the Gananoque River navigable by blasting out the rock at Beaver Rapids, Black Rapids, Latimer Rapids and Jim Day Rapids. He and another worker drilled holes in the rocky shoals by hand with a sledge hammer and drill bit, put dynamite in the hole and "kaboom". Today the motor-boaters of the river owe Orange a "Thank you". When Orange told me this story he remembered that he and another helper would camp at each site and work until the job was done. It was a government contract and he laughed and said the local members of parliament made more on the contract than the workers. "Sounds typical of Canadian politics."



### ***Orange on the Gananoque River in a boat that he made himself.***

Orange also built many of the boat houses on the Gananoque River. When he built the wooden one at the narrows of Beaver Rapids he said everyone told him it would not last one year due to the strong currents and ice. But today it's still there, solid on the shore side, but falling down into the river due to neglect.

His many memories of the local area include playing on the Ellisville hockey team, and getting a tie pin that had "1900" on it when the 20<sup>th</sup> century began. From his son Bill's memories some historical footnotes were gleaned. Orange and Bill attended the opening of the Ivy Lea 1000 Islands International Bridge and saw President Roosevelt and Prime Minister MacKenzie King in an open convertible. Other famous visitors witnessed by Orange included King George VI and Queen Mary in Kingston in 1939.

Everyone who knew him has a story to tell about him; some think he was a genius. He could do so many things. He moved his large house down the road in 1937 using only a team of horses and a capstan. It took a few weeks and drew a lot of spectators. Rumour has it that his wife Gertie was inside the house and the job went so smoothly that she never spilled a drop of tea during the move! Lorna, his daughter, still lives in that house on Cty Rd 3. She said that when they got the house on its new foundation Orange walked through the house and smoothly slid open and closed every window – another job well done.

I consider Orange a friend and a real raconteur; and I enjoyed each time I dropped in and had a visit with him. One day he was reading the shop manual for his truck that he maintained himself and another day he was sitting under the pine trees reading a Bible. That day he told me that he felt like he was living in Paradise. He was and is an inspiration to all of us. It was an honour and a pleasure to know him.

By Michael O'Connor, GRWA liaison with the Leeds and the 1000 Islands Historical Society

## SOUNDS OF SUMMER

I like the sounds of summertime  
When locusts rise in song,  
And fill the air with buzzing tones  
As others sing along.

Then crickets add their chirps and clicks  
As woodpiles they forsake,  
And katydids in monotone  
Do keep the night awake.

And over in the woods, where ponds  
Provide the soggy bogs  
For those who sing with mellow voice,  
It's home for happy frogs.

I'll always like the sounds I hear  
When sunny days are hot  
And woods provide the shady nooks  
To stop, be still, fret not.

Phillip William Hays

### ON GUARD AGAINST TICS

The warm weather brings the return of disease-bearing ticks and the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit officials are again urging residents to submit the bothersome bugs for testing. Last year the health unit sent 846 ticks collected from area residents for lab testing and 44 tested positive. Despite this, there were no reported cases of Lyme disease in humans in the tri-county area in 2007.

Still Lyme disease is now considered endemic to this region and people need to protect themselves when walking in the woods by wearing long pants with the socks pulled over and then thoroughly inspect themselves. If a tick is located, it should be removed promptly with tweezers by gripping the head and pulling it out firmly but gently. The bite area should be treated with an antiseptic and the tick kept in a jar and submitted for analysis.

If caught early it is easily treated; if left untreated, Lyme disease can affect the heart, nervous system and the joints and be debilitating. Complications from Lyme disease can even include paralysis. Symptoms of Lyme disease include a "bull's eye" rash where the tick took hold and flu-like characteristics such as a general achiness, headache and fever.

More info: [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org) "Lyme Disease" or 1-800-660-5853 or 613-345-5685.

## Cottage Wanted to Rent

Is there anyone willing to rent a cottage between Lost Bay and the south end of The Crank for two weeks in August? Since honeymooning on the Gananoque shores in 1985, our (non-smoking) family has grown to include three boys who love fishing and two well-mannered dogs (pets are negotiable) making the annual trek. Due to a change in ownership, we are no longer able to rent the cottage that has been our holiday home for the past several years. Even if you don't normally rent out your cottage and think you might not be set up for things like linens, we'd like to hear from you. Please call Heidi at 1-301-916-3586 or e-mail at [hrosvold@verizon.net](mailto:hrosvold@verizon.net) or call Jill at 613-828-6637.

## WASH OR DRY EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY WHEN TRANSFERRING FROM ONE WATERBODY TO ANOTHER

Through the **Invading Species** program of the ON Federation of Anglers and Hunters, testing for **zebra mussels and spiny water flea** showed **none in Fodey Lake**. Maybe this is entirely due to the "sea monster" that, according to Bill Webster and his fishing buddies, was seen in the Lake about 25 years ago. Bill said it was green and about 20 feet long. Maybe the monster has an underground passage to Killenbeck Lake and is responsible for keeping both lakes free of invasive species.

Unfortunately, the samples from Killenbeck Lake were lost. It will be retested in 2008 and hopefully will show no zebra mussels as has been the result for the last 5 years of tests. The 2007 results of the other lakes have not yet been posted. Info:

1-800-563-7711 or [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com),  
then "Invading Species Program"

**Eurasian water milfoil** is still a problem here. **Spiny water flea**, (see the insert with this newsletter), is now reported in the Muskoka area and Calabogie Lake near Renfrew and in Hasting County. **Water chestnut** has been found on the Ottawa River near Hawkesbury.

**Prevention of spreading is so important  
because once these invasive species  
get into the water,  
they are almost impossible to eradicate –  
unless there is a certain sea monster.**

# What does the Gananoque River Watershed Study Entail?

by Emily Conger, President of Algonquin to Adirondack (A to A) and Past President of GRWA

Because the Gananoque River Watershed system has received little attention over the years from a research point of view, a lot of information simply has not been collected. To improve our understanding of the Gananoque Watershed, one thing we need to do is determine what species live here. To find out what animals live in the water, MNR biologist, Scott Smithers has proposed to assist with a seining project on Lower Beverley Lake as part of our study, which involves using a large net with fine mesh to pull up all the fish and other species swimming in the water from specific sites. This study will tell us **what the species are and how abundant they are**. By looking at the number and type young fish, we'll have a good idea of the health of their populations. We'll also learn where the fish nurseries are, which should be protected. In the following years, this part of the project will expand to other lakes and rivers in the system to cover critical portions for fish survival. An added benefit is that we may identify the presence of more **Species at Risk**. This may help us acquire more funding for our stewardship goals.

To find out what aquatic plants there are and the water quality, and to also find out what kind of soils and sediments there are, Tom Beaubiah, a biologist, from the CRCA will do a different study. He will find out about the shorelines and their importance for habitat of native species. Tom's summer goal is to complete Lower Beverley and Gananoque Lakes, and the rest of the system within the next 2 years. To determine water quality we plan to use a specialized hydrometer which is dragged behind a boat to measures 13 different important things about the water, including **dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and phosphorous levels**.

**Volunteers are an essential element in achieving our goals.** Our list of 70 volunteers [15 from GRWA] and growing will help with the different aspects of the project including promoting and undertaking stewardship activities. Building a large group of committed volunteers puts us in the position of generating interest in stewardship efforts throughout the system. We know that having people who are seen as leaders in their community take on new activities is a very important part of getting a greater number of people to try them out. As an example, if you see your neighbour doing shoreline restoration by planting native species, you may want to know what's going on, and once you understand why, try doing it yourself.

The ultimate goal of the project is to help people understand what is going on in the system, see how they can help, and give them the tools they need to make improvements to the health of the system. One of the tools we hope to give them is an individualized package with a copy of the Watershed Plan, along with recommendations specific to their property, and information on how they can do needed stewardship, and who can help them do it.

If you want to volunteer for the Watershed Study contact GRWA at [www.grwa.ca](http://www.grwa.ca)

## PLEASE HEED SHORELINE WORK RESTRICTIONS

**Just a reminder to waterfront property owners, that permits are necessary and timing restrictions are in place for construction activity in or near the water on rivers, streams and lakes in our area.** Many are in place now although they vary with weather, temperature conditions and types of fish that inhabit the waterways. The best advice is to avoid the fines and penalties under the provincial and federal legislation by getting your permit early and by timing your in-water work after the restrictions have passed.

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority can assist if you are considering shoreline work such as docks, boat slips or shoreline erosion protection measures. Staff can advise you it is important to check with CRCA **before beginning work** on any projects near the water. People wishing to get more information and permits for in-water work or to report violations, should contact Carolyn Bonta, Biologist: [cbonta@cataraquieregion.on.ca](mailto:cbonta@cataraquieregion.on.ca) or

1-877-956-2722 or 546-4228 X 240. (Biologist Tom Beaubiah is on paternity leave.)

The timing windows are researched and set annually by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources staff who have the mandate to set, enforce and allow exceptions or extensions to allow an appropriate time and stress-free environment for fish to spawn and raise their young in our local lakes and streams. Construction in or close to water can affect fish by disturbing the soil and causing erosion. The release of construction runoff and soil into the water is a serious deterioration to all flora and fauna as it reduces the water quality and changes the water temperature. It can stress fish and reduce their chances of survival in the following ways:

- 1) reduce spawning success by smothering the eggs and preventing them from hatching
- 2) inhibit young fish's ability to see prey and feed properly
- 3) suffocate young and adult fish
- 4) inhibit movement and migration of fish

Fishing, including associated recreational activities, is a multi-million dollar industry in Ontario. Approximately \$1.7 billion is spent annually in the province on a range of goods and services related to recreational fishing. It provides employment for thousands of people in the commercial and recreational industries as well as the related service industry supporting it, including resorts operating on our waterways and bait shops. Degraded river health means fewer fish; fewer fish mean fewer jobs.

### No in-water work may occur

-warm water fish communities: from March 15 to June 30: all of the Gan Waterways except Red Horse L.

-mixed (cold & warm waters) fish communities: from October 1 to June 30: Red Horse Lake