



The Gananogue River Waterways Association

Box 15 Lyndhurst, ON K0E 1N0

www.harringtons.ca/GRWA/

Member of The Biosphere Network: www.biospherenetwork.com

October, 2004; v. 3, #2

President's Letter

I took over the position of president in June at our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, the new constitution was accepted by the members present. We also approved our association with the Biosphere Network.

There are now many challenges facing us. Our role seems to be expanding as the interests of our members are represented. We are putting into place a committee system. We realize that everyone can't study every topic yet we all have an interest in many topics. So we need people willing to take on certain subjects, keep on top of the research and activity in those areas and keep us informed. GRWA will then have more information to share with everyone.

The committees include conservancy /land trusts, forests, safety, municipal governance and planning, wild life and fish, ecological issues, finance and fund raising and social events. If you are interested in helping out on any of these areas just let us know and we can make sure you can be involved. No one will have the burden of everything, but we can all share with the interests we have.

Our waterway is attracting attention for many reasons. We are unique in our environment with GRWA working hard to preserve it. We have an article in this issue from a young student who is doing research on our river on the Northern Map Turtle. There has been testing done on the presence of the Zebra Mussels. We hope, other such research can happen in the future.

Finally we have asked everyone to observe their neighbourhood, keep in touch with what is happening and pass on the news, good and bad, of improvements to the waterways.

Thank you,
Mary O'Connor Kaiser

Draft Official Plan, to be
voted for on October 25,
will be the primary law for our Township until 2023.

The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands has completed the latest draft of the new Official Plan which will come to Council to be voted on at its regular meeting at 7:00 on October 25 at the Lyndhurst Council Chambers.

READ this crucial document. You can pick up a copy at either of the Township offices or download it from the website: www.townshipleeds.on.ca under "OFFICIAL NOTICES".

Let Council know your thoughts on this:

WRITE to the Planner,

Julie Salter-Keane,

c/o Box 160,

Lyndhurst ON K0E 1N0

jsalterkeane@ripnet.com

ATTEND the OPEN HOUSE on Monday October 25 2:00 to 6:00 pm Lyndhurst Offices

SPEAK at the PUBLIC MEETING which starts the Council meeting on October 25th, 7:00 at Lyndhurst
Depending on your comments and Council's position, the Plan may or may not receive the required 3 readings that evening. When it is passed, it must go to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs for final approval followed by a 20-day appeal period before becoming law if no appeals to OMB are received.

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONCERNS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON OCTOBER 25TH.

Annual General Meeting, July 4, 2004

The Gananoque River Waterway Association (GRWA) serves the community along the Gananoque River and its watershed from the Lyndhurst Dam to Marble Rock Dam in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

*The mission of the GRWA is to stand for the river. The GRWA is committed to:
promoting a strong sense of community along the waterways;
maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the vitality of ecosystems within the area served by the Association;
supporting the economic viability of the community;
promoting sustainable development that strengthens our social, economic and environmental assets.
(Excerpt from GRWA Constitution, adopted on July 4, 2004; available on the GRWA website)*

GRWA 2004/5 Directors

President	Mary O. Kaiser
Vice-President	Emily Conger
Past President	Hayden Marcus
Treasurer	Mike O'Connor
Membership	Bonnie Mabee
Secretary	Barbara Jones

Members at Large:

1. Peter Dundas
2. Peter Torbet
3. (Your help needed)

The executive meets periodically and welcomes all to the meetings. Contact Bonnie at: 1-613-237-1056 or www.harringtons.ca/GRWA/

Committees Set Up:

Please help in one area

As mentioned in the "President's Letter" on page 1, GRWA has formulated a number of committees to share the increasing amount of work needed to carry out the mission as directed in our new Constitution. Already, several have indicated an interest in a committee. If you wish to add your name please use the membership form or connect with Bonnie by phone 1-613-237-1056 or 'webmaster' www.harringtons.ca/GRWA/.

conservancy/ land trust – Alistair Burnett
forests – Chip O'Connor
municipal governance & planning
wild life & fish
ecology
finance & fund raising
social events

Changing Date of Membership To Calendar Year

To align the finances with the new Constitution as well as make it easier for you to remember and for me to update the computer, all memberships will be due for the calendar year. This realignment will be instituted gradually over the next year.

Membership Trivia

Of the 256 properties (about 400 members) represented by the GRWA:

- **83 are permanent residents**
- **77 from Lyndhurst**
- **34 from the States with 1 from California**
- **22 from the Ottawa area**
- **21 from Kingston**
- **16 from Lansdowne**
- **5 from Provinces other than Ontario**
- **including 1 from B. C.**
- **1 from Norway**

SUMMER SOUNDS

**The yodel of the loon,
The chitter of the hummer,
The warble of the whippoorwill
All tell me it's Summer.**

**The squawk of the heron,
The squeak of the jay,
The honk of the goose
Say, "Come out and play."**

**There's minor key of chickadee,
And bullfrog bass profundo.
Baby raccoon chirrups
To Mother rotundo.**

**The crack of a beaver tail
And the hum of a bee
Mean the orchestra's assembled
For Summer's symphony.
Barbaa Lee Jones
1999**

Education

I am presently working on my Masters in Geography-Environmental Resource Management at the University of Waterloo. My advisors are Sarah Michaels (School of Planning) and Steven Murphy (Environment and Resource Studies) both from the Faculty of Environmental Studies. I have an Honours BES in Environment and Resource Studies with an additional Parks Option and Environmental Assessment Certification from the University of Waterloo.

Roots

I grew up in Martintown, a rural Eastern Ontario town located in the Township of South Glengarry. My family now resides in Cornwall.

Work

Since I am currently between field seasons for my Masters Research, I have taken on a 7 month contract with the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) as the Riparian Habitat Coordinator and Remedial Action Plan Coordinator. I have worked for the RRCA in the past as a summer student collecting fish data through electro fishing for their Drain Classification Study.

Katherine Beehler

Contact Information

Email: kmbeehle@fes.uwaterloo.ca

Management Planning For Riparian Ecosystems – A Case Study of the Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)

Overall, Ontario represents 40% of all species listed as at risk nationwide. Today, many species are at risk due to habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation resulting from numerous human activities, including agriculture, forestry, climate change, invasive species and wildlife poaching to name a few (Canadian Wildlife Federation 2004). In order to effectively protect species at risk, conservation efforts should be based on sound management and science. However, most academic research and conservation activities that are focused on maintaining biodiversity and connectivity within the landscape have centered on the reserve design and management activities that are necessary to sustain terrestrial ecosystems, corridors and their large predator species. As a result, a prominent gap regarding issues of aquatic fragmentation, the relationships that exist between the aquatic and terrestrial interface (i.e. riparian ecosystems) and the species that utilize these environments has developed. Species such as freshwater turtles, which utilize several aspects of riparian ecosystems to complete their lifecycle (Bodie 2001), have not been adequately recognized within the available literature addressing riparian ecosystem management. An ecosystem management plan with viable solutions cannot be prepared without information that identifies a species' critical habitat, use patterns and threats to its survival. The research that I am conducting on the Northern Map Turtle will hopefully provide the foundation for land managers to establish ecosystem management plans that capture the key habitat parameters necessary for this species survival.

This past summer I began my search for suitable research areas to gain information on the Northern Map Turtle. I hoped to identify several research sites along the St. Lawrence River and Gananoque River where Northern Map turtles had been observed basking and nesting. I first found myself volunteering at the St. Lawrence Island National Park. Volunteering with park staff not only helped me to familiarize myself with the 1000 Islands area and potential research sites, but also taught me useful field research methods for studying turtles in the wild. I was then extremely fortunate to gain the assistance of a local landowner [Mike O'Connor, GRWA Treasurer] who was familiar with turtle behaviour along the Gananoque River [especially in the Lost Bay area]. Through his local knowledge of the waterway, I was able to identify several research sites along the shoreline and on adjacent islands. The research I hope to carry out this upcoming summer will include documenting nest orientation, characteristics of the surrounding landscape utilized by turtles for nesting, soil temperatures, and distance of nests from the shoreline, etc. Tracking turtle movement within this research area through radio telemetry would benefit the overall research project but is not feasible due to funding limitations.

Although I have identified several key research sites, additional sites for greater comparisons would be beneficial. If you have observed Northern Map turtles on your property and feel that the area could provide useful information for this study please feel free to contact me at kmbeehle@fes.uwaterloo.ca. As well, if you would like more information on identifying Northern Map Turtles or would like to learn more about the research I am conducting I would be happy to hear from you.

Works Cited

Bodie, J.R. 2001. Stream and riparian management for freshwater turtles. *Journal of Environmental Management* 62, 443-455

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). 2004. Species at Risk. Retrieved 03/07/04
from <http://www.cwf-fcf.org/pages/issuesandactions/issuesspeciesatrisk>

ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE HERE!

Since August there have been many scattered reports of adult zebra mussels (ZM) along the length of the GRW from Lyndhurst to Gananoque Lake. Small clusters are seen on rocks as well as on the boats and docks that are now being hauled out for the winter.

The biggest problem will remain for water intake pipes. (See the April 2004 issue of ShoreLines for a writeup on protecting these.) In Gananoque, Brennan Marine at 67 Mill St. does sell devices for these pipes and the filters which have to be cleaned and replaced regularly. The special filters have a mesh size capable of keeping out the microscopic young ZM called 'veligers'. Talk with Zeke at 1-623-382-3137.

If a boat motor is used continually or lifted up when not in use, there should be no problem with the ZM. Inboard motors with their larger water pipes should be checked.

ZM & Spiny Water Flea - TESTING IN AUGUST

Seven places along the Waterway, including Killenbeck and Fodey Lakes, were sites for the ZM and spiny water flea testing through a program funded by the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters with the Ministry of Natural Resources and others. However, because of a change in how the water samples are dealt with, the results will not be known until 2005.

In the meantime, please continue to take precautions when transferring boats, bait buckets and even toys from one water body to another as there are many more invasive species both plants (fanwort) and fish (quagga mussels, round goby, and ruffe). Please take particular care to keep them out of Fodey and Killenbeck Lakes as it is hoped that these two lakes will test free of both invasive species.

For further information:

ON Federation of Anglers & Hunters - Invasive Species,
1-799-562-7711 or www.invadingspecies.com/



Autumn Haiku

Autumn flotilla
of river geese, paddling west,
calling for summer.

Winter Events To Warm You Up

Oct. 30 Annual Lansdowne Craft Sale Lansdowne Rec Hall; 659-3586

Nov. 20 Lyndhurst Santa Clause Parade

Dec. 4, 6:30 Lyndhurst Tree Lighting Christmas Family Fun Nights - 6:30 to 8:00 (non-perishable food donations accepted)

Dec. 13 Lansdowne Council Chambers

Dec. 15 Seeley's Bay Hall

386-3062 Feb. 11 – 13 Seeley's Bay Frost Fest; 387-3062 or www.frostfest.cjb.net

Feb. 26 Lansdowne Winter Fun Day Lansdowne Rec Hall Start with a pancake breakfast at 7:00 am

The BIOSPHERE NETWORK at WORK

Hello residents in the Biosphere Network area (Westport-Kingston-Gananoque-Brockville)

1. A great new free service for **Residents-Households** to help you donate or sell lower value items, instead of seeing them go to landfill.
2. A great new free service for **Contractors and Industries** to give away or sell left over building materials, and bits and ends of manufacturing processes.
3. And also a place where people can **Ride Share** on the most common routes in the area-to and from Kingston, Brockville, Gananoque, Westport, Smith Falls, etc.

The system is easy to use. And it **costs nothing** for you to browse or list items on these exchanges.

Get started now by visiting: www.biosphereexchange.com

FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS WHO YOU THINK MIGHT USE THESE SERVICES.

The more users we have, the better it gets.

SOME GRWA CONCERNS ABOUT THE TOWNSHIP'S DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN

Please note that because of time constraints, this issue of ShoreLines had to be mailed before the GRWA Board met to decide on its formal reply to the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands concerning its draft of the Official Plan that is to come to Council on October 25th, 2004. However, based on three GRWA replies to various other drafts plus the results of a meeting of several groups of the Biosphere Network on October 15th, the concerns listed below will probably be some of the ones that the GRWA documents in its letter to the Township next week.

It is important that each person read the Official Plan document to form individual opinions which then should be forwarded to the Planner, Julie Salter-Keane as indicated on page 1 of this newsletter. GRWA would be pleased to receive a copy.

p.4 3.2 Goal

Two crucial environmental terms should be part of this Goal: **cumulative impact** and **biodiversity**.

p 10 4.4.1 Subdivisions and Consents

(b) (i) GRWA asks, as it always has, that **waterfront lots must have "a minimum area of"1 ha (2 ½acres)** not the ".8 ha (2 acres)" as that is the conclusion of GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY, written in 2001 by the United Counties of Leeds Grenville. Among other factors, the thin layer of poor soils and the rock structures are the major documented reasons from the study's recommendation.

p 27 & 28 4.25 Waterbody Protection

(e) GRWA believes that **islands must have the same size requirements as other waterfront lots; that is a minimum of 1ha (2 ½ acres)**.

p 36 5.3.2 Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species

(b) The Township sets "adjacent lands" as "those within 50 m (164 feet)" of a designated habitats of endangered and threatened species. This distance is obviously too small and research needs to be done on what distance is appropriate; **probably it should be the same "200 m" mentioned in (a)**.

p 37 5.3.3 Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

This was the subject of a huge controversy but it is believed that by moving these to Schedule 'B' along with other measures, most of the problems have been addressed.

p 37 & 38 5.3.4 Provincially Significant Wetlands (on the Canadian Shield)

(a) GRWA has continually asked that **these Significant Wetlands deserve total protection and thus should receive the designation "off the Shield"**. It is true that "due to vast areas of Ontario located on Canadian Shield and minimal

growth pressures associated with much of this area..." those parts of the Shield north of Sudbury do not need total protection but this premise does not apply to our part of the Shield which straddles Hwy 401 and is witnessing the beginning of an explosive growth.

(b) To "need an EIS for development" is contrary to the GRWA position which is that no development should be allowed on the Provincially Significant Wetlands.

p 38 5.3.5 Environmental Protection

(c) and (d) Floating Dwellings

These have been banned in many municipalities; **they should be more severely restricted or forbidden.**

p 61 5.9.4 Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lakes

(b) In view of the recent problem with the recognition of Long Reach, GRWA will ask that this recognition be included to read "...**Red Horse Lake, including Long Reach**, is the only highly sensitive lake...." As there is no documented definition of the "site specific study" that is needed to prove that "the proposed development will not impact upon the lake" it thus is an unknown term although with good intentions. So it should read that "**an Environmental Impact Statement that is specific to this particular highly sensitive site**" be required.

Red Horse Lake/ Long Reach – an update October, 2004

CRCA= Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, 1641 Perth Rd., Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0; 1-613-546-4228

GRWA=Gananoque River Waterways Association

Land Division is a Committee of the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, mail to 25 Central Brockville ON K6V 4N6;

offices at 458 Laurier Blvd ; 1-613-342-9246x14

MAH=Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, 8 Estate Ln., Rockwood House, Kingston ON K7M 9A8; 1-613-548-4304x32

MNR = Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.B 2002 Concession Rd. Kemptville ON K0G 1J0; 1-800-267-0974

MOE = Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 133 Dalton St. Kingston ON K7L 4X8; 1-800-267-0974

OMB=Ontario Municipal Board

RHL=Red Horse Lake which includes Long Reach

Township=Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands, 1 Jessie St, Lansdowne ON K0E 1L0; 1-866-220-2327 or 1-613-659-2415

All of the applications to Land Division listed here have come from Mr. Guy Laidlaw & his company, Long Reach Estates.

1993

Inland Lake Trout Management in Southeastern Ontario published by MOE and MNR classifies RHL as "Highly Sensitive" with a recommendation that no further development be allowed unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no additional nutrient loading as a result of that development. On a scale of 1 to 100, with 100 representing the worst condition for lake trout, RHL has a "sensitivity index of 100+" (p. 134)

1994

Water Management: Policies, Guidelines, Provincial Water Quality Objectives of the Ministry of the Environment...

identified RHL as not meeting the PWQO and so accordingly "shall not be degraded further, and all practical measures shall be taken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives." (p.6)

1996

Jul. 1, The first recorded Great ON Dip-in secchi depth is 3.2 m or "moderately enriched" in RHL.

Long Point, Conc.9, part lots 5 to 10 with 258 A and 25000 ft of shoreline up for sale with rumours of subdivision and golf course; GRWA investigated but nothing was substantiated.

Oct. 17 MOE wrote to Land Division that in view of the "highly sensitive" classification of RHL, this Ministry not approve any further severances on the Lake.

2002

Apr. 22, The end of Long Point, Lots 8, 9 & 10, is rezoned at the request of MNR and MOE by the Township to prevent farming, and then severed into 3 lots (B-01-02). GRWA and many residents protested against any severances at

Township Council meeting at which Councillor Dobing assured us that, "It's not going to turn into nine severances."

May 29, at a meeting with CRCA, MNR, MOE, MAH and the Township Council, MOE reminded those present of the 1993 and 1994 documents, their recommendations and implications for RHL.

Jul. 1, The Great ON Dip-in secchi depth is recorded as 2.4 m showing "higher levels of nutrients."

Jul. 6, GRWA Membership reports that in the results of its survey "water quality and waterfront development" are the top two main concerns of the members.

[date unknown] B-86-02(?) NW side, part lots 5 & 6, are divided into 3 lots. B-156-02 SE corner nearest Black Rapids in Conc. 8 is divided into 3 lots

Oct., the first reports of mature zebra mussels in RHL are received.

2003

Feb., Township Council was again reminded of the 1993 and 1994 documents by the consultant for the new Official Plan.

May 1, B-21 + -22-03; Land Division granted severances on John Tye's property, as recommended by CRCA and the Township, resulting in 3 new lots on Long Reach. GRWA sent a letter of concerns and attended the hearing.

May 21, Cameron Smith, acting on behalf of GRWA, appealed to the OMB the B-21 + 22-03 severances and entered into successful negotiations with John Tye's agent, Mr. Laidlaw, that resulted in the eventual (Aug. 25) passing of Township Bylaw 35-03 specific to these 3 lots.

Jun. 2, B-70-03 application went to Land Division to sever one of the original lots granted in B-01-02 that is on Long Reach side of Long Point. In November the Township changed the zoning of the severed lot to ensure that it could only be divided into lots of at least 10 A. GRWA asked for and received 100m frontages.

Oct. 2, B-126-03 application goes to Land Division for the severance of one of the 3 lots from the original B-21 +-22-03 division. CRCA, after consultation with MOE, MNR and MAH on Oct. 29, responded with concerns about the "cumulative effect of development" along with the other issues and suggested, "We would be prepared to support the division of this property, as one part of a plan of subdivision developed for the applicant's land holdings around Red Horse Lake. Any approval of the division should be made conditional upon a satisfactory demonstration, by a qualified professional, that there will be no negative impacts, as a result of development within 300 m of the shoreline, on the surface water quality of the Lake. "

2004

Jan. Mr Laidlaw postponed the hearing on B-126-03 until a legal right-of-way problem was cleared up.

Aug. A formal complaint was made to the Township that the house at 1010B Lodge Ln was only 15 m from shore in contradiction to the Township Bylaw 36-1996 which states that it should be "30 metres from the normal high water mark."

It was discovered that the Township was using a map from the Municipal Property Assessment Corp. that incorrectly labelled the waterbody as "Gananoque River" instead of "Long Reach"

Sep. 7, GRWA President met with some member of Council to present the evidence of the mapping error.

Sep. 16, Land Division allowed the severances on B-126-03 with "a concern with additional development...and the impact such development may have on the lake, suggesting that an Environmental Impact Study be undertaken as a joint effort between the Municipality, the Cataraqui Conservation Authority, the Province [MOE, MNR, MAH], the applicant and the land owners on the lake." This meeting may be in November.

Sep. 27, Township Council met 'in camera' to decide that "Long Reach" did not exist & the setback is 15m

Oct. 8, MNR Biologist wrote an official letter to the Township informing them that the Red Horse Lake officially included Long Reach as a cold water/trout body of water. GRWA immediately wrote the Township to request that Long Reach be an official name and that the 30 m setback be applied. We await a reply.

Oct. 25, The Township will consider the draft Official Plan which recognizes RHL as "the only highly sensitive trout lake" requiring specific strong measures for any new lots. (p. 61 section 5.9.4,) GRWA will request that Long Reach be included as part of RHL.