

# The Gananoque River Waterways Association

Box 15 Lyndhurst, ON KOE 1N0

Member of The Biosphere Reserve Network: [www.thewatershed.ca](http://www.thewatershed.ca)

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## President's Message

Welcome back to the River for the year 2004!

This past year, the executive has worked together to implement a few dramatic changes to the organization that I believe will help set our strategic direction for the years to come.

Firstly, we have created a new Mission and Constitution that more closely represents the critical areas of activities that we need to address. Ecological balance between users and natural inhabitants, changing political landscapes, increasing use of the Waterways by cottagers, and a more responsible membership have all helped to re-shape our mandate. We are also recommending that the name of our association be modified to The Gananoque River Waterways Community Association to more closely represent our commitment to the River community. I want to thank the members of the Executive and others who have put in tireless hours of debate and discussion to make sure our Mandate reflects the true need of our membership and our environment. Page 1 of the Mandate and Constitution is included in this issue of ShoreLines; the whole document will be presented at the July 4<sup>th</sup> AGM for your ratification.

Secondly, we have taken a very active stand regarding the sensitivity of Red Horse Lake to ensure that it remains healthy. We solicited our membership to determine your views regarding future development on this lake, and are working with local organizations and government to ensure that necessary steps are taken to ensure its long-term health.

Members of our executive spent considerable time reviewing the Draft Official Plan (OP) for our Township, and our concerns were forwarded to the Council. The OP suggests many changes in the legislation that could potentially affect each one of us in the area. I urge you to review the plan and become familiar with how these changes may impact you before it is presented at a public meeting to be scheduled possibly in early fall.

In the coming months, we plan to complete the GRWCA website and further develop our relationship with organizations such as the Biosphere Reserve Network (formerly known as The Watershed). We also plan to incorporate into our website other elements that are of interest to cottagers, homeowners and other users of the waterway. I believe that the GRWCA website will become a repository for important information that we can all refer to, and also use to communicate more regularly how the executive is progressing with important issues.

We will continue to enjoy excellent quality of life along the River as long as we protect the water and environment, and continue to respect each other as our community grows.

If you have an interest in the participating with the Association, or have questions regarding any issue that you think GRWCA can be of assistance, please contact us. We are always delighted to hear from our members.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Hayden Marcus  
President

## Annual General Meeting

**Sunday, July 4, 11:00 am  
Kendrick Park,**

(north on Cty Rd 3, with a right jag to the end of Short Point Rd)

All are invited to hear a speaker  
on the new Conservancy/Land Trust in our area.  
There will be decisions to ratify the  
new GRWA Constitution and  
to endorse that of the  
1000 Islands – Frontenac Arch  
Biosphere Reserve Network (BRN)

The Lower Pavilion is available all day on July 4 to any GRWA members who wish to stay on to enjoy a potluck picnic, a swim or the rest of the facilities that are available.

**ONLY PAID MEMBERS OF GRWA CAN VOTE AT THE AGM.  
THE DATE ON WHICH YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE IS ON  
THE ENVELOPE. IF IT IS DUE NOW, A GREEN FORM IS  
ALSO INCLUDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS.**

## GRWA Website: a work in progress

With a humungous thanks to Neil Harrington, a GRWA member, you can see the beginnings of our leap into the electronic age: [www.harringtons.ca/GRWA/](http://www.harringtons.ca/GRWA/) Officially, it will have information about us and by us as Neil, the GRWA webmaster welcomes your input of photos and ideas. Be sure to check out the proposed Constitution before coming to the AGM on July 4 to vote on it.

## “Happy Birthday to You”

Two members of the Biosphere Reserve Network are celebrating important milestones with special events listed on their respective websites through links from GRWA's: Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority is 40 years old (613-546-4228); and the St. Lawrence Islands National Park is 100 years old (613-923-5261). Their events include planting trees and shrubs to enhance our biodiversity.

*[Below is the first of the seven- page Constitution document that will be presented for ratification at the July 4<sup>th</sup> AGM. The whole document can be viewed at [www.harringtons.ca/GRWA](http://www.harringtons.ca/GRWA) ]*

## **Gananoque River Waterways Community Association**

### **Mission**

The mission of the Gananoque River Waterways Community Association (GRWCA) is to stand for the river. The GRWCA 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.

The Association will strive to represent the interests of the waterways community in the following ways:

- recognizing that the river is part of the U.N.1000 Islands-Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve designation and leveraging opportunities arising from this designation;
- protecting and balancing the interests of all stakeholders;
- providing an opportunity for members of the community to come together and to create ways to achieve our mission;
- conducting appropriate research into the issues that affect the quality of life on the river;
- informing and advising members of all issues that impact the quality of the river community and seeking their advice to develop strategies to address these issues ;
- working with the community to protect the environment;
- surveying community members about their needs, interests and any gaps in service, and developing plans for action to address gaps, needs etc.;
- securing resources to take appropriate action;
- providing administrative and organizational support for community-building;
- influencing government policy and acting with government officials on behalf of the community;
- educating members about the environment, community safety and security and improving the quality of life on the river;
- entering into partnerships and alliances to advance the aims of the community;
- working to develop and maintain a strong and vibrant association to meet the diverse needs of the people who live along the river.

The Gananoque River Waterway Community Association 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.

### LAKE PARTNERS: testing the waters

The ON Ministry of the Environment (1-800-470-8322 or [www.ene.gov.on.ca/programs/3636e.pdf](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/programs/3636e.pdf)) has been conducting tests on water quality (clarity and phosphorus) over many years with thanks to a group of volunteers who commit their time twice a month to lowering the bottles and Secchi disk. GRWA would like to extend its thanks to:

Jim Johnson – Red Horse Lake  
Bonnie Mabee – Gananoque R  
Wilmer Hill – Gananoque L  
Andy Veerman – Killenbeck L  
Emily Conger – Fodey L

Also in August there will be a one-time testing for Zebra mussels and spiny water flea through the Invading Species Watch (1-800-563-7711 or [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)). Again the Lake Partners above will be doing this sampling along with:

Peter Bronsema, Singleton Lake Campgrounds  
Bob Jaquith, Wilson's Tent & Trailer – Lyndhurst L

### MORE INVASIVE SPECIES in TREES

Serious concern is growing over 2 insects that have reached southern Ontario as both cause fast and total destruction of trees. But there is no evidence at all that they are in our area.

The Asian longhorned beetle kills all hardwoods and is in the Toronto area where 15,000 trees have been cut to try to limit its spread. Oval wounds (1 to 1.5 cm) can be seen in the bark when the female chews a place to lay eggs; slightly larger round holes are created by the emerging adults. The Emerald Ash Borer is active in the Windsor /Detroit area killing all species of ash (except mountain ash which is not a true ash). The emergence holes are like a "D" lying on its side; again the hole is a bit smaller than 1 to 1.5 cm.

Information is at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) or call 1-800-442-2342 if you see evidence of either pest.

### West Nile Virus – Be Prepared

As the mosquito season approaches prepare your property by clearing or screening all small areas of standing water. Have your long-sleeved shirts and repellent ready. To verify the area's situation, connect with the L,G,&L District Health Unit, 1-800-660-5853 or [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org) "Health Hazards"

### TOWNSHIP BURN PERMIT is REQUIRED: PICK IT UP AT ONE OF THE TLTI OFFICES

For a campfire, burn barrel or incinerator the permit is good for your lifetime. Please do not burn any plastics.

To burn brush, a permit must be picked up each time you plan to do it and the fire department must be phoned on the day. Not having a permit can lead to hefty charges in fines and costs of emergency trucks. Be safe.

At the Township office, pick up the Recreation & Municipal Guide which is full of the events around and about plus needed information such as phone numbers and hours for offices, dumps, libraries etc.

### Growing Pains Need (y)our Help

It is such exciting news that The Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy (CTIHC), at the request of many interested people north of its original boundary, has decided to allow its mandate to grow to cover the GRWA area thus filling a huge conservancy/land trust gap that exists south of the Rideau Canal and north of 401. It allows the very successful CTIHC to help other groups like ours in the Biosphere Reserve Network

The possible benefits extend to all, a true win-win program – tax breaks for the owners, habitat protection for wildlife, corridor connections for wildlife and maybe hikers, beauty preserved for boaters, water quality enhanced for fish and preserved property values for all. BUT GRWA must respond by providing some people-power to help with the many duties involved with a conservancy process.

GRWA needs at least one person to act as the liaison person with the evolution of CTIHC. It means one meeting a month, usually during the day, plus CTIHC volunteers will act as the mentoring body. To check it out: [www.1000islands-conservancy.on.ca](http://www.1000islands-conservancy.on.ca) or even better meet the real people by attending the CTIHC Annual General Meeting, Saturday May 29, at the Rockport Rec Hall. The AGM is at 9:30, followed immediately by a workshop on protecting special places. Speakers are from MNR, CRCA, land use planner, and Don Ross. Discussion is about relationships of official plan, ANSIs, and private property. **Open to all, no admission, free lunch.**

If you would like to help, please connect with Bonnie at 613-237-1056 or [dbmabee@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbmabee@sympatico.ca)

### TOXIC POLLUTANTS

To prevent harmful and toxic materials from entering your lake:

- Use environmentally-safe cleansers or natural alternatives.
- Don't pour household hazardous materials— paints, thinners, oils, wood preservatives, etc. — down the drain into your septic system. These systems don't treat toxic chemicals and they in turn will damage the septic system. Don't bury these hazardous materials or pour them on the ground. Store them securely until you can take them to municipal household hazardous waste facilities for safe disposal.
- Avoid the use of pesticides or herbicides as they eventually end up in the lake, killing its plants and animals.

### MNR Winning Raccoon Rabies Fight

A Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) campaign against raccoon rabies here appears to have succeeded - at least for now. The entire province has been case-free since last June and researchers will continue the efforts.

Visit The Gananoque Home-Cottage Show at Gananoque's recreation centre on Friday, June 11, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## ZEBRA MUSSELS IN THE WATER INTAKE SYSTEM

Until recently my wife and I had a cottage on the Gananoque River. A few years ago we learned that there was evidence of Zebra mussels in that river system. So the search was on to find a way to prevent the things from clogging our intake pipe.

There were scholarly articles describing the zebra mussel life cycle. The relevant bit was that these creatures start life as really tiny larvae: about 40 microns (40 millionths of a meter). They float away from their birth-site in the water, driven by wind and currents. And the cottage water pump will suck them up the intake pipe. As larvae they're no more harmful than algae and other contaminants in the water. It's the few that stick to the walls of the intake pipe that will cause trouble. They will grow to adult size: about 3-5 cm, I think.

Interesting, but what can one do about it? In 1999 the only really practical info I was able to find had been put together by the Georgian Bay Association and published on their website: [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca). The report is still available through the website search facility. Included were half a dozen technologies for keeping cottage water systems free of the mussels. Costs varied from \$200 to over \$2000. Each was evaluated for ease of installation and cost of upkeep.

Based on those factors I chose the Aquastand, which costs \$212 delivered (guess which factor got the


highest priority?). The system looks like two buckets fastened together mouth to mouth and stacked on end; three long legs protrude horizontally from the lower bucket to keep the unit upright. The upper bucket is of perforated plastic, and a cloth filtration bag covers this plastic bucket and is fastened to it by an elastic cord. Assembly and installation proved simple. Operation was simple, too: the water passed through the cloth bag and its plastic support bucket. Since the cloth bag had a mesh size of 35 microns or less, it filtered out the mussel larvae, if any – but also algae, silt and other contaminants. Our cottage water had never been so clean! Once inside the plastic support bucket, the water passed through a foot valve to a pipe that led down and then out the side of the lower bucket. There it connected to the cottage intake system.

The only routine maintenance needed was to replace the filter bag periodically with the spare supplied with the unit, and launder the dirty one. Choosing the frequency of bag changes proved tricky: during the peak algae season I waited too long and the bag became so dirty the suction from the pump partially collapsed the plastic perforated bucket. Precise Solutions sent me a new one within a week (for free!) and I adopted a twice-per-month bag change frequency that prevented further damage.

We don't know whether the Aquastand did more than deliver clean water to us. Precise Solutions told me of customers on badly infested bodies of water who reported clear intake pipes but with lots of adult mussels clinging to the outsides of their Aquastands. By contrast, we saw no mussels on our unit. But better the Aquastand than the risk of replacing the cottage water system.

Pat Jones

PHOTOGRAPH 2



Precise Solutions Inc., Aquastand: Devise #2

- 73% zebra mussel removal in the water column
- 97% reduction in zebra mussel settlement
- \$229
- 38% reduction in suspended material
- 35  $\mu$ m cloth bag (nominal, hand stitched, machine washable)
- no maintenance required during this experiment
- bottom filled with rocks, gravel to stabilize unit in an upright position
- surface area maximized

<p>GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABILITY OF SIX DIFFERENT PRODUCTS TO PREVENT ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM INFESTING A SMALL VOLUME WATER SYSTEM ABI PROJECT M9627</p>	<p>Precise Solutions Inc. 100 Lancing Drive, Unit 10 Hamilton, ON L9W 3L8 1-800-668-2183 Contact: Mark Gallant, 905-575-9458</p>	<p><b>Aquatic Sciences Inc.</b></p>
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## LIFESTYLE MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO PHOSPHORUS LOADING, the silent killer of rivers & lakes

Human waste	RUSTIC =534 g	MODERATE Human waste	=534 g	MANICURED Human waste	=534 g
No dishwasher*	=0 g	Dishwasher, liquid detergent	=260 g	Dishwasher, powdered detergent	=651 g
No fertilizer	=0 g	Fertilizer, once per year	=981 g	Fertilizer twice per year	=1962 g
Treed lot	= 17 g	Cleared lot	=29 g	Cleared lot	=29 g
Phosphate-free household products	=0 g	Phosphate-containing household products	=180 g	Phosphate-containing household products	=180 g
	TOTAL=551g	TOTAL=1984g	TOTAL=3356g		

These phosphorus loads were calculated assuming that 3.7 people used the cottage for 89 days out of the year. The dishwasher did one load daily while they were there. It was assumed that the powdered detergent for dishwashers was 23% phosphate and the liquid detergent was 8% phosphate. The lawn (15 x 30m) was fertilized with 10-10-10 fertilizer at the recommended application rate of 0.05 kg per sq. m.

Source: MOE Dorset Research Centre

Other sources of phosphorus are bird and animal faeces including that of cattle, discharge of greywater from boats and homes, plus septic tanks that are poorly maintained and/or too close to the shore. Excess phosphorus nutrients mean excess growth resulting in overall poor water quality because of excess algae growth, oxygen depletion that suffocates the fish, and water that is truly unpleasant for swimming or boating. It becomes an obese lake and must be put on a strict diet.

To protect your lake from this nutrient obesity, reduce the phosphorus you put in your sewage system. Sewage systems, old and new, have limits on the amount of phosphorus they can capture and remove. On the Canadian Shield [as is the GRWA], the limited soil cover may not readily capture phosphorus. Also, as systems age and tile beds become saturated, phosphorus uptake diminishes and most nutrients eventually reach the lake. To minimize risk:

- Use phosphorus-free detergents for clothes and dishes. All detergents for automatic dishwashers contain from 4.5% to 18% phosphates so use as little as possible. Also use environmentally friendly shampoo and soap to bathe in the lake.  
Some are available at the Biosphere Reserve Network Visitor Centre  
19 Reynolds Rd (at the Parkway) 659-4824
- Do not wash cars in the lake.
- **Pump out your septic tank regularly.**
- Use marina facilities to pump out sewage from pleasure boats.
- Avoid using fertilizer as it will definitely end up making the lake plants grow more.
- Enhance and maintain a natural, forested shoreline [of at least 10 m to 30 m] to increase nutrient uptake by shoreline plants and reduce erosion and nutrients leaching into the lake.
- Prevent surface runoff from your property into the lake [by using wood chips for paths instead of concrete and leading eaves troughs to a back slope or a rain barrel].

**Note:** The label “biodegradable” on some detergents and products means only that the product will break down in the environment, not that it is non-toxic or non-polluting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the Ministry of Environment at 1-800-565-4923.**



## **Introducing MAPLE 10: An Immediate Start to a Natural Shoreland Restoration**

Three values are attached to waterfront property. One is the recreational value we place upon it - fishing, swimming, boating, hunting. Another is the beautiful and pristine "natural" environment. The third, reflecting both the first two, is the dollar value of the property. Whether waterfront property is purchased for pure pleasure, retirement or for capital gain, the advertisements are all the same...clean water, good swimming, excellent fishing on a peaceful body of water near a thriving city area. The very things that give us the property's natural value, also account for its dollar value. Whether you want to maintain or improve your lake's quality for natural, recreational or dollar values, it is the same goal and starts with a healthy, living shoreland. MAPLE 10 is a first step for to improve all the values of the individual property and lake.

MAPLE 10 is a very simple self-help, do-it-yourself program designed to allow the maximum regeneration of shoreland with the minimum of effort. Lake associations are encouraged to organize members and interested individuals to participate in MAPLE 10 which is designed to give the shoreland owners a head start on the regeneration of their lake.

First, the owner measures a minimum distance of at least 10 ft (3 m) from the waters edge, usually from the high water mark. The optimum distance, often now legally required by the municipality for new lots, is 90 ft (30 m). The area is marked off by signs, or string or any other method the owner prefers. Then, the owner does nothing. No grass cutting, no spraying, no fertilizing and no work. This area will immediately begin to regenerate with natural plants.

In the first year, wild flowers and grasses get started. By the next year, small shrubs and trees indigenous to the area also begin to grow. Wildlife- frogs, birds, ducks and small fish – the desired biodiversity reappears as the vegetation begins to shield the shoreland and shallow water.

It is important that once a MAPLE 10 site has been started, that the landowner never cuts the grass or sprays with pesticides or herbicides. Noxious plants such as poison ivy can be killed by covering them with six inches of hay, and allowing the hay to compost on them. Burdock and purple loosestrife can be pulled by hand, preferably before they begin to seed. Remember, if the landowner lets a MAPLE 10 site regenerate for a year, and then mows the area, one full year of regeneration has been lost.

### **How long will the MAPLE 10 Program take?**

This depends on the area you live in, but if the area is left untouched from the time the snow melts, in the first year the landowner can expect the appearance of new wildflowers. These flowers and grasses will immediately begin to slow down the rate of erosion. This in turn slows down the silting and aging of your lake. By the second year, small trees will appear. These trees will be very small, only inches in height, and care must be taken not to crush them. Native shrubs and trees, obtained through MAPLE can be planted in the spring or fall to help speed the process.

### **What does this vegetation do?**

Even grass will slow surface erosion and begin to absorb surface nutrients before they get into the lake but its roots go down about 3 in. The small shrubs, such as dogwood and meadowsweet, put down roots to 18 in., a deeper constantly, self-renewing filter of sediments, nutrients, even pesticides and heavy metals. Full sized trees filter usually down to the upper reaches of the water table. Trees also supply important shading to the shallow areas, and help moderate the temperature of the water. This is especially important for breeding fish, and preventing algae growth.

### **If MAPLE 10 is so simple, why doesn't everyone do it?**

Mainly because most of us have not realized what damage we have done to our rural rest spot by trying to make it look like our city lawn. This little piece of shoreland makes a difference in the beauty and ecology of your lake. Ninety percent of all lake life is born, raised and fed within the 30 ft (90 m) band of shoreland where land and water meet. When we sterilize this area, we sterilize our lake or river. MAPLE believes that if every shoreland owner, both private and public was to begin the MAPLE 10 program today, they would create more wildlife habitat and do more to clean up our drinking water than any other single action taken in the province to date.

### **Why does MAPLE 10 work?**

The natural vegetation along the shoreland does a number of things. First, it holds back the soil to prevent erosion. Erosion is a major factor in shrinking land, rapidly aging lakes and rivers and ruined fish spawning habitat. The vegetation also holds back the nutrients seeping from sewage and fertilizers into the lake. Excess nutrients increase plant and algae growth to the point of "choking" the ecology of the water. Wildlife lives in, on and around the shoreland vegetation especially when it is natural like the common dogwood, a source of food for over twenty-five species of birds. The shoreland trees shade the lake and keep the shallow water cool so that eggs are not overheated, and scummy algae growth is greatly reduced.

### **But doesn't it look untidy?**

It can certainly be a culture shock not to mow the lawn right to the water's edge to give the lawn that final finishing touch. However, think about the natural lakes you have been on, and how beautiful the shorelines are with the trees and shrubs growing right to the water's edge. It will take time and patience to re-establish this beauty. This is where the other MAPLE programs come in, supplying two and three year old plants to help your shoreline recover quicker.

### **But how can I access my dock, swimming area and water?**

MAPLE 10 is designed to work with the realities of waterfront life. But on any given waterfront, not all the area is required for water access. MAPLE recommends that 75% of the shoreland be allowed to grow naturally. For an average cottage lot with 100 ft of frontage, this 75% guideline would still have 25 ft of open access to the water.

### **But my cottage is not on the water. What difference does my front yard make?**

A lot! Every acre of forest holds over a million litres of water. Natural vegetation growing on your recessed water property slows

down the flow of water to the lake. This helps prevent erosion, and gives the vegetation a chance to absorb nutrients before they reach the lake. Also, it helps to give your lake a constant flow of fresh water all summer.

**YOU can make a difference.**

Start MAPLE 10 today. Encourage others on your lake and in your lake association to join you. Please join those of us in MAPLE as we work today for lakes tomorrow.

MAPLE Inc., the **Mutual Associations for the Protection of Lake Environment** in Ontario, is a non-profit organization made up of cottagers, lake-users and naturalists who work together to maintain the natural lake environments of our Ontario waterways. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.rideauvalley.on.ca/maple](http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/maple) or Patrick Ferris, Managing Director c/o Doraty & Ferris, 28 Northside Road, Nepean, ON, K2H 5Z3

Native trees and shrubs can also be purchased, with advice, from the Ferguson Forest Centre in Kemptville,

613-258-0110 or [www.seedlingnursery.com](http://www.seedlingnursery.com)