



The Gananoque River Waterways Association

Box 15 Lyndhurst, ON KOE 1N0 www.grwa.ca

Member of The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve: www.fabr.ca

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A SECRETARY'S MUSINGS:

In my 15 years with the Board of the GRWA, I've seen many changes, and also some enduring values and concerns. For 42 years our members have been variously involved with security, air quality, water levels, water quality, native creatures and habitats, speeding vessels, over-development, shorelines, and infestations. Specific concerns ebb and flow. Commitment to the environment is the intrinsic element.

The organization is organic, and addresses problems depending upon the interests and vitality of particular members. We've been fortunate in having members with a passion for special areas of concern: birds, turtles, waters, canoe routes, shoreline restoration, and so many others. Perhaps the greatest quality of this organization is this protean character. It has always included and allowed for expansion and variety. The most important development I've noticed in recent years is, thanks to these members, our increasing connection with environmental and political bodies with whom we can share and work and maximize our influence.

On behalf of all of us who value our natural environment, I thank the dedicated members for staying the course and continuing the good fight, and welcome our newest Board members. Our victories are sometimes as small as a turtle sign or a paragraph in an Official Plan. Some are more substantial, like a piece of land saved and preserved forever. But of course we can never rest on our laurels (nor for long in our canoes). Founder Elizabeth Shaw's rallying cry rings on: Eternal Vigilance!

The Gananoque River Waterways Association from the start has been a coalition of good minds and good hearts, and a variety of talents put to good use. It has been a privilege to work with our executive since 1991. I look forward to another challenging year. I hope a few more environmental souls will step up and offer their names for the Board and various committees—especially our exciting proposed Watershed Study with Lower and Upper Beverley Lake Associations.

In thinking of our identification with the river and surrounding waters, there's something I like to keep in mind: Water can wear away mountains.

With thanks to Barbara Jones, the GRWA Recording Secretary since 1992

The GRWA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is on July 6, 7:00 pm at the Lyndhurst Municipal offices. Come to discuss the results of the Watershed Study Survey, to vote for the Board of Directors and to voice your questions and concerns about our Waterways which extend from Lyndhurst Dam to Marble Rock Dam. Your voice is the essence and strength of your Association.

**April in Ontario
No daffodils --
osier dogwood just flags spring
with its scarlet stems!**

Caroline Balderston Parry

**Congratulations to our neighbours!
Lower Beverley Lake Association
celebrates its 75th Anniversary.**

For details: www.lbla.net

BLACKLEGGED TICKS

Following reports of the possible presence in the 1000 Islands Park region of blacklegged ticks that carry the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, a Parks Canada ecologist along with specialists from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the ON Ministry of Health, began studies.

The results released in Aug. 2006 suggest that blacklegged ticks are likely established within the 1000 Islands region and beyond. To date, the one confirmed case of Lyme disease likely originated in the Park. Anecdotal reports of other cases of Lyme disease have been reported from the broader Region.

Though closely related to insects, ticks are actually a type of mite. Ticks vary in size and colour with blacklegged ticks being very small ranging from 1-4 mm in length, when unfed. Ticks are usually picked up when brushing against vegetation; once on bare skin they attach by their mouthparts.

Humans and dogs should take measures to block the bite of an infected tick. Staying on trails and avoiding areas with tall grass are good preventative measures. People should wear light coloured clothing with long sleeves that fit tightly around the wrists and long pants tucked into socks or boots. Using insect repellent containing DEET as per instructions and checking for ticks on clothing and skin regularly will reduce your chances of infection.

Should you detect a tick on your skin, remove it promptly by grasping it with tweezers, if possible, by the head as close to your skin as possible. Pull it straight out, gently but firmly. It would be helpful to place it in a secure container to submit it to the Health Unit for testing. Contact the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Health Unit Action Line: 1-800-660-5853

www.healthunit.org/hazards/documents/lyme.htm

The Health Unit reported that only one crow tested carried the West Nile virus in 2006 with no humans testing positive. The same measures for clothing and insect repellent that provide protection against ticks also keep mosquitoes away.

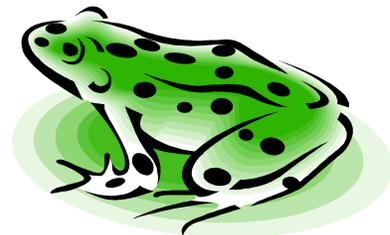
NO ZEBRA MUSSELS - AGAIN!

Fodey [Long] and Killenbeck Lakes have tested free of zebra mussels and spiny waterflea for the 3rd year. A humungous thanks to all of you who are keeping your boats and equipment dried as you go from one lake to another. Amazing!

Eursion watermilfoil is another invasive plant growing in our waters. Enclosed is a card to help identify it. Report its presence to Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Biologist Tom Beaubiah, 613-546-4228x240 or beaubiah@cataraquiregion.on.ca

DEFINITELY 'FROGGY' GOOD NEWS

We have property at the delta of Grippen Creek just as it flows into Red Horse's Long Reach. We visit the property occasionally through the summer season. This [2006] year we noticed to our great delight that the frog population has exploded. We have been concerned that previously, there seemed to be so few. This time small frogs were jumping into the water each step we took along the waters edge and we could hear more calls in the marsh this time. We think we have identified green Leopards and brown Leopards as well as Green frogs. We even saw three ducks there on our last trip this past weekend. Eventually we hope to visit the property more often and are interested in keeping the area very healthy for the flora and fauna. I don't know if anyone else is noticing any increase in frog population.



This is good news, right?

Kevin Jackson

For those of you who might like to learn more about frogs:
www.naturewatch.ca/english/frogwatch/on/

AND MORE GOOD NEWS...

Jim Johnson has been experimenting with floating loon nest boxes on Red Horse Lake for the last couple of years. Last year on 2 nests, 3 chicks out of 4 successfully fledged. In 2007 he hopes to add a 3rd nest.

Jim also volunteers for the Lake Partner Program, doing the phosphate testing twice a month on Red Horse. And he does the Invasive Species test each season. Thanks Jim for being a steward of the Waterway!

Orm Stanton on Gananoque Lake and Andy Veerman on Killenbeck Lake are also 'stewards of note' as they do the phosphate testing and the zebra mussel test. Citizen monitoring is important to understand our waters. Lyndhurst L. needs a Lake Partner.

GARBAGEGARBAGEGARBAGEGARBAGE

A survey of Township residents showed that 78% do not support garbage pickup and so the idea was turned down by Council. See: www.townshipleeds.on.ca "Survey Results".

The landfill site for Ward 2 off Briar Hill Road is near capacity. Either closure or expansion of this site is very expensive and so residents are asked to REDUCE excess packaging by using cloth bags and/or reusing plastic ones. Buy a good water bottle to REUSE with your excellent well water. RECYCLE & COMPOST as much as possible. The Township now recycles all # 1 to 6 plastics.

Since your trash might be another's treasure, have a YARD SALE or www.biosphere.reuses.com to sell or give away unused items.

The Ontario Provincial Police have a new name, THOUSAND ISLANDS OPP to go with their new home, 874 CTY ROAD 3 (just south of Lansdowne) and a NEW PHONE 613-659-5200, although 911 IS STILL FOR EMERGENCIES.

Water Levels to be measured and stabilized in LYNDHURST

A recently installed stream gauge on Lyndhurst Creek will provide the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority with a more complete picture of precipitation patterns that affect its forecast of either flood or drought conditions. The station contains a modem that enables telephone access to the accumulated data. Volunteers also monitor water levels throughout the CRCA area.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, after consulting with many individuals and groups including GRWA, has decided to replace the Lyndhurst Dam and add a weir spillway as the most efficient way to keep the water levels stable in the Beverleys and the Gan River.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

175th BIRTHDAY OF RIDEAU CANAL

There are so many activities that it is best to check at www.rideau175.org/events-e.html or 1-888-773-888, or visit the Parks Canada site in Smiths Falls

MAY 19, 20 & 21 + 26 & 27, 10 AM - 5 PM
UP THE GARDEN PATH, Studio & Garden Tour www.tiarts.org 613-342-7828

May 12 Learn to be "citizen scientist" to monitor a forest & wetland plot. Meet at the Gananoque Firehall on Herbert Street at 9:30am for a full day with Kingston Field Naturalists and Parks Canada. More: St. Lawrence Is. Nat. Park 613-923-5261x1054 or Shirley_french@hotmail.com

JULY & AUG. FABR NATURE CAMP
Attention all (grand)parents of **children age 6 to 11**: The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve is again conducting its successful nature camp at the Landon Bay Centre. Each week 30 campers experience a variety of activities. www.fabr.ca/naturecamp or 613-659-4824 or stop at the FABR office at 19 Reynolds Rd.

JULY 1 CANADA DAY IN SEELEY'S BAY; boat flotilla, classic cars, BBQ, fireworks; 387-4041

JULY 6 7:00 pm GRWA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at LYNDHURST MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

JULY 6 - 8 ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING WEEKEND for licence-free fishing

JULY 19 - 22 LANSDOWNE FAIR

Aug. 20 - Sep. 1 Dump Amnesty Days: Pay \$5 for a pink card at the Township office to allow one load of appliances (with Freon in fridges removed), 5 tires, furniture, etc. www.townshipleeds.on.ca

Aug. 25 Hazardous Waste Depot, 8 am to 2 pm, Cty Rd 3 South Leeds Garage; County of Leeds Grenville; 613-342-3840x307

SEP 18 - 22 INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH at CROSBY "Sowing Seeds for Harvest and Heritage" is more than just plowing a field. It includes Antique Shows, Arts and Crafts, Fairs & Exhibits, Picnic & Activity Parks. www.plowingmatch.org 1-800-661-7569

Water quality – septic tank re-inspection and phosphate results

As reported in ShoreLines a year ago, a pilot septic re-inspection project, begun in 2005 on Slack Road on the north shore of Charleston Lake was to be finished in 2006. The Leeds Grenville and Lanark Health Unit, responsible for the project, completed 169 inspections at a cost of \$154.23 per inspection totally funded by the Health Unit. However, individual owners are responsible for all repairs or replacements. Replacement of tank or leaching bed was found to be necessary in 37 cases (22%); 28 properties (17%) needed other repairs such as a new tank alarm or pump. The age of the system was not always indicative of problems. Recommendations include annual inspection by all owners and mandatory inspection bylaws for the Townships (or perhaps the Province) with the costs ultimately borne by the owners whether directly or through taxes. This would be only one means to sustain the water quality.

Contact the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Department of Health in Brockville, 1-613-345-5685 or www.healthunit.org/landcontrol/ to find out if your septic records are up-to-date.

Our Township has in its 2006 Official Plan Section 4.22.5: Sewage disposal systems are a potential source of contamination of ground and surface waters. It is a policy of this Official Plan to introduce a sewage system re-inspection program to ensure that faulty systems are not contributing to water quality problems. The Township's first priority...will be...undersized waterfront lots, especially those for which no official system approval records are available.

GRWA submitted to the newly-elected Council a reminder of its obligation to the Official Plan.

Phosphate is a main contributor to “sick” water quality because it feeds excessive plant growth including Eurasian watermilfoil and algae blooms. It is found in some household products such as detergent for dishwashers (septic systems cannot remove it) and lawn fertilizers. Disturbances to the shorelines through development or unusually high water release phosphate from the soils. Farms on shorelines, both cattle and crops, add more; fauna fecal matter is a small contributor. The speed of flow and the type of substrate below the water - rocks, soil and plants - have a bearing on its uptake but phosphates do not travel very far as they are taken up fairly quickly by the immediate plant life. Certainly each waterway has unique characteristics that must be studied as GRWA plans to do in its Watershed Study.

In 2002 the Ministry of the Environment changed the method (protocol) for the way the Lake Partner Program volunteers conducted the taking of water samples for phosphate testing. Now that the LPP has 5 years of data, we can begin to look at these as a base line which seems to be fairly stable but somewhat too high; the next 5 years will show more definite trends. Always we must keep in mind the many factors on our particular Waterways that influence the phosphate levels. The figures are the total phosphates (tp) measured in micrograms per litre (ug/L), averaged for the 6 months of samples as taken from:

www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake_partner

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Lower Beverley Lake – Kendrick Bay	19.76	21.79	18.16	18.05	18.33
Red Horse Lake – West Basin	21.25	17.07	16.86	16.03	16.48
Gananoque River – between Lost Bay & The Crank	17.83	19.13	20.24	15.36	18.36
Gananoque Lake	25.68	21.15	22.16	25.39	19.60

Waters between 10 and 20µg/L are termed mesotrophic and are in the middle. These waters show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and unproductive at the lower end of the range or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentrations near 20µg/L. Lakes with TP over 20 µg/L are classed as eutrophic and may exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

Our Watershed Study will look at all the factors and the data to determine if remediation is needed and what might be most effective.