



July 2018
Lake Clear Property Owners Association Board Reports

PRESIDENT (Report #1)

Judy Bates

First and foremost, I thank all members of the Executive, Board, and Committees for welcoming me as the new and “green” President of the LCPOA. They guided me through my learning curve (which is not over) with kindness and patience. We are very lucky to have such a large number of people who are willing to work on a variety of issues affecting Lake Clear and I am confident that the membership appreciates their efforts.

I would be remiss in not recognizing the support I received from Lianne Pepper to coordinate the review of our constitution, Steve and Cheryl Torrance for designing and editing the Newsletter, Philip Lancaster for our very popular Updates and Lorne Monahan for helping me learn the ropes.

Judy Bates

PAST PRESIDENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Report #2)

Lorne Monahan

Mandate: To ensure that there is at least one qualified candidate for each of our elected positions.

The Elected Positions and Candidates offering to stand for election are:

President:	Judy Bates
Vice-President:	Herb Weckwerth
Treasurer:	Vacant
Secretary:	Kathleen Kearney
Lake Steward:	Wayne Lecuyer
Membership:	Jean Davies

Postscript: It has become increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers for our elected positions, as those who have served for several years naturally decide to step down. Older retirees often feel “volunteered out”; recent retirees are reluctant to be tied down now that they finally have free time; while those still working decline as they are still

involved with careers and possibly family. We need an answer to this serious problem. Any suggestions?

Lorne Monahan

LAKE STEWARDSHIP (Report #3)

Chair: Wayne Lecuyer

Mandate: To participate in short and long term water testing projects and other related initiatives as related to the water quality in Lake Clear.

Firstly, let me extend appreciation and thanks to the other lake stewards for their efforts to complete the testing. I also thank Greg Romanow for his time, care, and commitment related to the gull egg-oiling project.

PHOSPHATE TEST RESULTS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>% change</u>
SITE 1 (EAST END)	9.9	7.2	+37.5%
SITE 2 (NORTH END – OPEONGO)	10.2	6.9	+47.8
SITE 3 (EAST – HARDWOOD BAY)	9.4	7.2	+30.6%
SITE 4 (WEST – HANES ISLAND)	9.8	7.5	+30.7%
SITE 5 (SOUTH – WEILAND SHORE)	9.7	6.9	+40.6%

Note: 2018 results will be published/available in January on the MOECC website: www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue, or www.foca.on.ca

SECCHI DISC READINGS (2018 – SITES 3 & 4)

Site 3:	May 24	8.7m depth	12 degrees
	June 8	6.9m depth	16 degrees
	July 1	6.4m depth	20 degrees
Site 4:	May 24	7.6m depth	12 degrees
	June 8	6.1m depth	15 degrees
	July 1	6.1m depth	21 degrees

The Ministry has confirmed that the clarity of Lake Clear has been consistently within the good to very good range. Calcium levels are also excellent. Testing was also completed for other levels of contamination, i.e.: lead, mercury, volatile organic compounds (VOC's), and resulted in readings that were "miniscule" on the range of ratings. An independent water analysis company in Ottawa completed these tests.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) made a presentation to the Bonnechere Valley Township Council June 9, 2018 to review the "at capacity" designation of Lake Clear. Of note is that Lake Clear is now deemed to be beyond at capacity. The presentation is available on the Lake Clear website.

EGG OILING PROGRESS

This project is in the second of a three year permit from the government for egg oiling on “Lornie Foran Island” in the north area of the lake, as it relates to the very large population of seagulls.

Year	# of seagulls	# of nests	# of eggs
2017	1,800 – 1,900	750 – 800	2,300
2018	1,400	700	2,000

This is a reduction of 24%.

The Ministry considers a pH range of 6.5-8.5 to be acceptable and Lake Clear is within those ranges; however, the test results have confirmed a consistent and steady increase in pH levels. If this trend continues, it could affect the fish population, including lake trout. The E-coli readings are good, (less than 2.0) with the exception of Lornie Foran Island. The Renfrew Health Unit (RHU) have been monitoring the water quality on the north end/Sandy Beach area and have been forced to post warnings for very high e-coli readings particularly after large rainstorms and changing wind directions. Acceptable levels are less than 100. In the past the levels have been 600-800. It is anticipated that this will decrease with the continuation of the egg-oiling program.

Government guidelines for clarity are:

Excellent	24’ – 40’
Good	12’ – 24’
Poor	0’-12’

Lornie Foran Island: 2017: 10 feet (poor range)
2018: 13 feet (just inside good range)

GOVERNMENT WEBSITE/PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO WATER QUALITY

- <https://foca.on.ca/shoreline-owners-guide-to-healthy-waterfronts/>
- <https://foca.on.ca/managing-your-waterfront-property-in-a-changing-climate>

INVASIVE SPECIES

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has conducted numerous studies and is engaged in monitoring related to invasive species. There website contains many resources specific to invasive species and we encourage you visit the site. www2.ec.gc.ca

SEPTIC TANK & WATER WELL TESTING

It is recommended that septic tanks be pumped every 3-5 years depending upon the age of the system and how much use it receives annually.

Well water test kits are available from and any Regional Health Unit (Arnprior, Renfrew and Pembroke are the closest) and the tests are free. It is recommended that you complete 3 tests, 2 weeks apart and the results are usually available within 7 to 10 days. DO NOT drop off samples on Thursday or Friday because storage over the weekend may affect the results.

Enjoy the summer and care for our lake, our “hidden gem” in the valley.

Wayne Lecuyer

INTERNET COMMITTEE (Report #4)

Chair: Paul Beanish

Mandate: To work with local government, private and not-for-profit organizations to improve the access, reliability, affordability, and speed of Internet service to Lake Clear residents.

The Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus and Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) issued a press release in April 2018 related to Cellular and Mobile Broadband initiatives. A copy of the full press release is in the Spring LCPOA Newsletter. In addition to this release, there have also been articles in community newspapers about this initiative. Unfortunately, confusion exists over the priorities. We were hopeful that Internet, other than using phone data would be a priority; however, this does not appear to be the case.

We have met with Jennifer Murphy, the Mayor of Bonnechere Valley Township (BVT) to discuss her role as a Renfrew County Council member in supporting this initiative. She is very supportive and is working with us to determine possible next steps. John Yakabuski has also stated that he is supportive; however, we have not seen a plan at this point.

We have also had meetings with local Internet providers goZoom and Bonnechere Community Initiative (BCI) to see if there is any way we could possibly help them to help us. We discovered that they are not eligible for any government grants from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) because they are simply too small in comparison to the large providers. Mayor Murphy suggested that BVT staff may be able to assist in searching for other funding sources and we are pursuing this possibility.

A possible solution is the installation of another tower in the Big Rock area. This would only have to be just above the tree line and could serve many Lake Clear property owners. BCI and goZoom also highlighted the CRTC fees (\$16,000/year) and the hydro and Bell pole fees of approximately \$16 per month per pole if other options are considered.

Other obstacles include; BCI's wait for Bell to approve/install a bandwidth upgrade and latency issues with satellite providers such as ExploreNet.

Home hubs for cell data have been suggested but an acceptable data cap is prohibitively expensive for most people.

In the mid 1980's, fibre was installed along highway 512; however, local providers have told us that it is at capacity. Mayor Murphy has offered her assistance to verify the accuracy of this statement. This line supposedly runs past Foymount to Quadville,

Palmer Rapids, Barry's Bay, Killaloe, Golden Lake, and back to Eganville in a loop. This seems to be an ideal spot for an upgrade and could allow more rural branches.

Paul Beanish

LAND USE COMMITTEE (LUC) (Report #5)

Chair: John Taker

Mandate: To address concerns raised by LCPOA members regarding apparent exceptions/omissions to the existing Township bylaws governing development on Lake Clear, with an emphasis on those affecting water quality.

Summary of actions/accomplishments for the period August 2017 to July 2018:

In late August 2017, the LUC completed a count of all RVs on the lake, the road on which a unit is located and its approximate proximity to the lake. This list was submitted to Council and the Mayor subsequently asked us to identify how many of the 57 RVs identified appeared to be used as cottage replacements/supplements. In our opinion, 38 appeared to be used in that manner.

In late 2017, the Bonnechere Valley Township (BVT) newsletter invited written submissions in favour, against, or neutral to the LCPOA's proposed regulation of RVs on waterfront properties on Lake Clear. Submissions were to be received by 31 March 2018. The majority of the letters were in favour of the LCPOA action and most of the letters can be viewed on the BVT website. In addition to letters from members, the LUC submitted a comprehensive report that consolidated all of its findings and concerns. The report focused on three categories: environmental, economic, and political issues. Members were informed about these initiatives through Updates.

In March, the LUC encouraged BVT Council to review and refresh their knowledge of the 'at capacity' rating of our lake by inviting expert representatives from both Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries (MNRF) to speak to Council in advance of the June 9 public consultation meeting. The MNRF declined the request. The MOECC sent Victor Castro, Group Leader of Surface Water to speak to Council on 5 June. Mr Castro a scientist and expert on the matter told Council that our lake is actually '**beyond**' at capacity' and that immediate remedial action is recommended. When asked his opinion specifically on whether RVs had any effect on the lake, he stated that RVs are a form of development or redevelopment, both of which should be addressed through regulation. His PowerPoint presentation can be found on the LCPOA website at <http://www.lakeclear.org/water-quality.html>.

The June 9 public consultation meeting was held at the Eagle's Nest in Eganville and was very well attended. 27 speakers made short oral presentations for and against the proposed RV regulation. Speakers in favour included Colleen Beanish (presenting Judy Bates' material - she was unable to attend), Lesley Lancaster, Lorne Monahan, Janet Smith (LCC), Kathy Lindsay (BRWP), Micki Smith, John Taker and Kevin Gillis.

BVT Council now has the very difficult, but unavoidable task of dealing with this matter and they expect to do so over the course of the summer.

John Taker

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (Report #6)

Chair: Jean Davies

Mandate: To establish and maintain a network of representative to sell and renew memberships, to maintain the official membership list of the association.

I am confident that all members of LCPOA are very appreciative of the work that the Shore Representatives do delivering information and renewing memberships to their neighbours. In 2017, we had 234 paid memberships out of a possible 317, which is 73.8%.

We welcome Kathy Webb who has generously volunteered to be the new rep for Klondike Rd. We still DO NOT have a shore rep for "Plaunt Mountain" which includes Ronski Way and Lake Clear Rd. #500-923. We sincerely hope someone will volunteer for this position. We are looking forward to another successful membership drive in 2018.

Jean Davies

LCPOA JACQUIE LECUYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP (Report #7)

Chair: Jean Davies

Mandate: To support the LCPOA's pursuit of optimal environmental and ecological conditions for Lake Clear and its environs, through the provision of a scholarship to students enrolled in a post secondary environmental program. The criteria and further details are available on the Lake Clear webpage.

The LCPOA Scholarship Committee met in January to discuss ways of expanding our reach. As a result, we advertised much farther. The committee met in late May to review and evaluate the applications and choose a winner. We are pleased to offer the Jacquie Lecuyer Environmental Scholarship to Olivia Gillis.

Jean Davies

PUBIC RELATIONS (Report #8)

Chair: George von Jagow

Mandate: To update and solicit feedback from LCPOA members through a variety of communication vehicles.

Facebook Group “For Everything Lake Clear” – Colleen Beanish

- Our Facebook group currently has 160 members
- Great pictures of the lake, local news items, info about local businesses, and upcoming events are being posted regularly. The more people posting, the better!
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1721143194766162/>

Website – Colleen Beanish - www.lakeclear.org

- There are currently 631 unique visitors per week, between 65 and 111 per day in May/June.
- There is an extensive list of local events on the main page
- The most popular pages this month were the home page, maps, fish, camping, beach & boat launches, plants, LCPOA, fishing regulations, islands, photo gallery, blog, local artists and studios, aerial photos, and topography.

Lake Clear Updates – Philip Lancaster

- Philip’s very popular Updates are really appreciated by all members. He sends out an average of one per week, keeping everyone in the loop.

George von Jagow

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Report #9)

Chair: Nelda Markam

Mandate: To provide financial support to local organizations or businesses which enhance the enjoyment of LCPOA Members.

The financial obligations of the LCPOA are the top priority; however, if any excess funds are available, a maximum of the \$750.00 will be available for outreach.

Donations to any organization must directly benefit the members of the LCPOA and funding will not be provided for political, religious or lobbying activities.

Written requests for funding must be presented to the LCPOA by April 30th of the calendar year.

Any donation by the LCPOA in one year is not a commitment for funding in subsequent years.

Recipient organizations must acknowledge the donation in a public and timely fashion.

This year the committee received requests from the Sebastopol Heritage Committee to help with general maintenance of the museum and the Opeongo Lodge to help fund the July 1st fireworks.

The committee voted to donate \$400.00 to Opeongo Lodge for the fireworks display.

Nelda Markam

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Report #10)

Chair: Mike O'Brien

Mandate: To engage in initiatives directly related to safeguarding the environment in, on and around Lake Clear.

The Environment Committee has continued to support the three-year water testing plan that is associated with the gull project. The committee has also focused on liaising with other organizations concerned about water quality and on exploring how to involve residents and cottagers of Lake Clear in becoming more involved with water quality issues.

The Environment Committee links with the Bonnechere River Watershed Project as well as Water Rangers, an organization concerned about water quality in the entire Ottawa River watershed. Our committee attended a water stewardship forum this last spring and will be attending another forum in the fall. Organizations from within the county, and at the provincial and federal levels attend these forums and share the work they are doing in Renfrew County.

The Environment Committee has also linked with Water Rangers to determine whether or not they are an organization, which, will assist in attaining our goal of ensuring we protect our lake. We will be making a presentation to the LCPOA Board in the fall to determine the best course of action.

Mike O'Brien

LAKE CLEAR CONSERVANCY LIASON (Report #11)

Liz Shultis

Mandate: To ensure open communication and to report on projects and issues of mutual interest to both organizations.

Annual 2018 Fundraising Dinner

Preparations are well underway for the biggest annual block party on Lake Clear on August 11, 2018! This year our tent will be raised at the heritage home and property of Carolyn and Paul Desjardins, on French's Road. Tickets are selling quickly at \$30, so be sure to get yours as soon as possible. Our event is always a sell-out. We anticipate 120 guests, who will be treated to a gourmet meal, professional music, as well as great offerings in both live and silent auctions! Just e-mail Janet Smith at janet.jl.smith@gmail.com, call Liz Shultis, at 613-602-1698.

This fundraising event is the LCC's major source of revenue. It takes many years to accumulate enough funds to carry out its mandate as a land trust, and that is to purchase key properties on or around Lake Clear. By doing so, the LCC will ensure that such land is maintained in its natural state forever!

Camping on Crown Islands

The Ministry of Natural Resources Forestry (MNR) and Bonnechere Valley Township have granted permission to allow the LCC to charge an administrative fee for camping, a non-refundable \$15 per site for any camping reservation made on a Lake Clear Crown Island. The modest administration fee helps to defray start-up, IT, and on-going inspection and maintenance costs. Many thanks to Jason Taker, who volunteered to tackle our online registration project. The fee does not seem to have deterred the number of wilderness campers. We anticipate that this action will add another level of rigor to the camping program.

Liz Shultis