



## July 2019 LCPOA Board Reports

### ***PRESIDENT: Judy Bates***

I have completed two years as President of the LCPOA and am becoming increasingly aware of the need for our association to engage in advocacy, lobbying, and partnerships. The environment is of vital importance and has been identified by the members as a key concern. Whether dealing with increasing temperatures, fluctuations in water levels, flooding, water quality, adherence to bylaws and legislation, or the protection of land and water life, we must be vigilant in ensuring the protection of Lake Clear.

### **Algonquin Land Claim**

A few members have asked about the status of the Algonquin Land Claim. The following are excerpts from: [www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim](http://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim).

#### **About the land claim**

The claim covers a territory of 36,000 square kilometres in eastern Ontario that is populated by more than 1.2 million people.

If successful, the negotiations will produce the province's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

The Algonquins of Ontario assert that they have Aboriginal rights and title that have never been extinguished, and have continuing ownership of the Ontario portions of the Ottawa and Mattawa River watersheds and their natural resources.

The boundaries of the claim are based largely on the watershed, which was historically used and occupied by the Algonquin people.

#### **Current status**

Ontario prepared a [Draft Environmental Evaluation Report](#) as part of our environmental assessment requirements related to the Algonquin land claim negotiations. The public comment period for the report ended on October 17, 2017. We will summarize the feedback we received and how it was addressed in the Final Environmental Evaluation Report.

## **Key terms of a possible settlement**

The negotiators for the Algonquins of Ontario, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have agreed to recommend:

- the transfer of 117,500 acres of Crown Lands to Algonquin ownership
- \$300 million as settlement capital provided by Canada and Ontario
- defined Algonquin rights related to lands and natural resources

The negotiators have also agreed that:

- no new reserves will be created
- Algonquin Park will be preserved for the enjoyment of all
- land will not be expropriated from private owners as a result of the settlement

In closing, I thank the Board, Committee Chairs and members, and all of those who volunteer for various initiatives. Thanks to you, we have a vibrant association.

*Judy Bates*

## ***PAST PRESIDENT & NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 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: John Earle

Treasurer: Karen Jerome

Secretary: Kathleen Kearney

Membership: Jean Davies

Environment: John Taker

Public Relations and Communications: Colleen Beanish

*Lorne Monahan*

## ***VICE PRESIDENT: John Earle***

This was my first year on the Board of the LCPOA and I spent the year learning about the various activities, supporting the President, and together with Lianne Pepper, coordinated the revision of the Constitution. The Constitution is a separate item on the AGM Agenda and will be discussed in further detail at that point. Mike O'Brien and I attended the Stewardship Forum on behalf of the LCPOA and the summary is included at the end of the reports.

*John Earle*

## ***MEMBERSHIP: Jean Davies***

Mandate: To establish and maintain a network of representatives to sell and renew memberships, and to maintain the official membership database for the association.

In 2018, 242 memberships and one associate membership were purchased. This represents 76% of the total number of properties on the lake. Seven people bought extra memberships for their additional lots and there are two properties where the membership payment is shared.

It may be of interest to note that residents on the Plaunt Mountain 2 route, where we had no shore rep, purchased 5 memberships. This compares to 9 purchased in 2017. We are still in need of a shore rep for Heideman Bay (Lorne Monahan has kindly agreed to step in for this year). We will be trying a pilot experiment with payment through e-transfer for members on Plaunt Mountain 2 because they do not have a Shore Representative.

As always, I thank all of the Shore Representatives for their efforts in selling memberships. If not for them, our memberships would not be the highest of any other lake association in our region!

## **2019 AGM Scholarship Report**

The LCPOA Scholarship committee met in May to review the applications and since there was enough money in the scholarship reserve fund, we were able to choose two winners. We are pleased to offer the LCPOA Jacquie Lecuyer Memorial Environmental Scholarship to Abigail Perrault-Saunders and Kayla Rekowski. Both recipients are members of LCPOA members' families.

*Jean Davies*

## ***LAKE STEWARD: 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.

For over 20 years the Dorset Environmental Science Centre has been responsible for monitoring and analyzing the annual water tests that are submitted by over 600 lake steward volunteers sampling in excess of 800 sampling sites in 550 lakes throughout Ontario.

Most recent phosphate readings from our testing provided by DESC and the Ministry of the Environment for 2018 with comparative previous years figures as follows:

SITE LOCATION	Ph Results		
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 East End	9.8	9.9	- 1%
2 North End (Opeongo)	7.1	6.9	+2.9%
3 East End (Hardwood Bay)	8.8	9.4	- 6.4%
4 West Side (Hanes Island)	7.0	9.8	-28.6%
5 South End (Weiland Shore)	8.2	9.7	-15.5%

The most recent test results for clarity (secci depth) and clarity readings for Sites 3 & 4 were conducted on June 29, 2019 and were:

Site 3 - water clarity - 8.2m, and water temperature at that depth was 18 degrees.

Site 4 - water clarity - 7.6m and water temperature of 18 degrees.

Annual testing results for both the Ph and secci disc readings are published/updated in the new year and can be found at the following website: [www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue](http://www.ontario.ca/search/data-catalogue) or the DESC website at: [www.desc.ca](http://www.desc.ca).

All shoal and marker buoys were installed earlier in the year and thanks to Philip and Bob Peltzer (and his son-in-law) who made it possible to have them installed prior to the May long weekend.

To prevent the possibility of transferring invasive species to our lake from other lakes, please advise any guests/visitors to ensure that they have washed or cleaned their boat, to reduce the possibility of importing species like zebra mussels. (Already found close to Lake Clear).

Ensure that all of your required boat equipment is available and in operating condition. You are required to have in your possession, your boaters operators card, boat registration, sufficient life jackets (properly sized/fitted particularly for children), boat safety kits, whistles, bailing container, safety rescue ring/rope etc., depending upon the size of your boat. Fire extinguishers are also required for larger boats.

*Wayne Lecuyer*

## ***ENVIRONMENT: Mike O'Brien***

The Environment Committee has been focusing attention on the issue of Invasive Species. While Lake Clear has not experienced a serious problem yet, we need to do everything we can to prevent them coming into the lake. We have obtained a pamphlet from FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations) that will be distributed to all persons purchasing an LCPOA membership this year. Part of preventing the introduction of invasive species is to ensure proper boat washing. Last year we obtained signage from the Ministry of Natural Resources and placed it at the Opeongo Mountain Resort. We have asked Opeongo Mountain Resort for the contact information for any organizations holding fishing tournaments on Lake Clear as those boats launch at Opeongo. To date those organizations have not responded to our telephone calls but we will find other ways of communicating with them. Lastly, with regard to invasive species we should be having discussions about the possibility of a boat washing station at Lake Clear. While they are expensive they can play an important role in preventing invasive species from entering Lake Clear. The introduction of an invasive species can have a serious impact on the quality of our water.

Last year the Environment Committee helped organize garbage clean up of cans and other items tossed into the lake. With the assistance of Marc Audet who does the diving we will go to a new location this summer to bring up garbage from the lake bottom.

As we all know, there are many turtles around Lake Clear. In Peterborough, the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre operates a hospital for injured turtles. Information has now been included on our website about the Centre. If anyone around the lake finds an injured turtle there is a phone number that can be called and volunteers will come and bring the turtle to the turtle hospital.

Last year we were represented at the Interlake association meeting. We will plan to attend again as it is a terrific opportunity to connect with other lake associations and share information and potentially develop partnerships.

*Mike O'Brien*

## ***LAND USE: John Taker***

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

The main issue that is being addressed by the LUC is the uncontrolled use of RV's on Lake Clear.

Activities for the period August 2018 to July 2019:

- Council deliberated the RV issue in a special Council meeting in August – no resolution.
- In late September, Council decided it would not address the RV issue in advance of the Municipal election and instead would pick it up again in January, when the new council would be sworn in.
- It was also decided that Victor Castro of MOECC should be asked to provide a delegation, once again, to the new Council (he had already presented just prior to the June 9, 2018 Public Consultation meeting on this issue) to provide background scientific information on the meaning of 'at capacity' and to provide the specifics on Lake Clear.
- In January 2019, Judy Bates and John Taker met with our newly elected Ward 3 councillor, Jack Roesner, to provide him with all background information on the RV issue and an overview of the LCPOA. Jack was left with a package of information and was asked to distribute it to the new Councillors.
- At the Council meeting of 19 February, CAO Bryan Martin was instructed to ask Victor Castro to return to make a presentation to the new Council. Additionally, the CAO was instructed to seek a legal opinion on BVT's zoning by-laws.
- At the council meeting of 5 March, Victor Castro again made a presentation to Council concerning how the 'at capacity' rating is applied to a lake trout lake, what the results were for Lake Clear and again expressed his opinion that RVs did represent a form of development and should be controlled. He recommended that Council take immediate remedial action on the lake.
- At the Council meeting of 19 March, Mr. Greg Romanow presented his personal water sampling findings. Essentially, his presentation contained a summary of his findings from a number of different tests in locations around the lake. He concluded that the lake was pristine and concluded that any poor readings were a result of gulls. He also claimed that his tests were consistent with the Lakeshore Capacity Model as defined by MOE.
- John Taker immediately followed Mr. Romanow's presentation to allow him the opportunity to put Mr. Romanow's information into perspective as it relates to the scientific results already determined by MOE. The MOE findings are the official stance and determines the 'at capacity' rating. Mr. Romanow's testing was related solely to the gull issue.
- Mr. Taker's presentation was not well received by Council, especially when he referred to all information, beyond the official results from MOE, as simply being noise and not germane to the issue at hand – **the absence of any by-law to control the use of RVs on lake Clear, an "at capacity" lake which has had all development halted for several decades.**
- Mayor Murphy made it known that no decision would be forthcoming from Council until the new Renfrew County Official Plan was finalized and the new Provincial Policy Statement was prepared. The estimated timeframe for these items is August/ September

2019.

- The official plan has been approved only in part and it has been decided that Renfrew County would proceed with a hybrid approach. The remaining issues are expected to be complete in the August 2019 timeframe.
- Most recently, Council has been taking some actions seemingly relating to the RV issue; specifically:
  - The Committee gave direction to look into installing an RV dumping station at the Eganville sewage plant.
    - *The timing and related cost of this effort is not yet known; however and Ironically, the information previously provided to Council by the LCPOA showed that of the 55 RVs on the lake, 46 of them are 'hardscaped' in place. These are being used as cottage replacements and are not being removed at all. So it is not at all obvious which RVs would be expected to use this new septic dumping station; although we assume it will be appreciated by those passing through Eganville.*
  - Council has apparently approved an expenditure of about \$1000.00 to fund Mr. Romanow's testing of the lake water again.

*John Taker*

## **Public Relations & Communications:**

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

**Website – Colleen Beanish** <http://www.lakeclear.org>

- Our website has been designed for ongoing community collaboration and to address the interests of a variety of users. Our goal is multi-generational use and sharing. We want to keep the website current and relevant.
- We encourage you to continue sharing the web address with family and friends, as well as considering contributions to the [Blog](#) on the Home Page, stories for [Treasured Memories II](#), old photos for under the [History](#) tab, or recent photos for the [Photo Gallery](#).
- The website continues to be popular with about 590 unique visits per week in June.
- The 10 most popular pages currently are the [homepage](#), [camping](#), [beach and boat launches](#), [boating on the lake](#), [birds](#), [aerial photos](#), [animals](#), [amphibians/reptiles](#), [attractions/activities](#), and [arts/sports/culture](#).
- The LCPOA Survey suggestions included creating a buy and sell for cottagers, including a cottage rental directory, and adding information about scuba diving, as well as information about water quality and quantity issues in Renfrew County. We are

encouraging members to use the Facebook Group (described below) for a buy and sell forum. We would create a cottage rental directory and add information about scuba diving, but would first need the information sent to [lakeclearwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:lakeclearwebsite@gmail.com). There is a section about [water quality](#) currently, and if more information is sent to the email address, it can be also be added.

### ***eUpdates – Philip Lancaster***

- Email updates are sent to the membership on a regular basis. These are very well received and especially appreciated in the winter months when many members cannot be at the lake.

### ***Facebook Group - For Everything Lake Clear – Colleen Beanish***

- This book is a closed group created for LCPOA members. There are 189 members currently.
- There is more activity and interaction in the summer months, but the page is still followed throughout the year - most posts are seen by 60-125 people even in the winter months.
- We would like to encourage more people to post.
- What can you post?
  - Pictures of the lake or lake activities you are engaged in – It's wonderful to see the lake from many perspectives
  - Comments or questions relevant to other LCPOA members
  - Items to buy, sell or give away
  - Services that can be provided to LCPOA members
  - Events of interest to LCPOA members
  - Discussion topics for others to comment on

### ***LCPOA Survey – Colleen Beanish***

- The LCPOA surveyed its membership to ensure that members are being represented in the best way possible.
- The anonymous survey was designed using the free tool Google Forms and members received a link to the survey via email.
- There were 142 respondents out of 227 surveys sent out - a 63% response rate, which is very good.
- We consulted with a professional statistician who was able to confirm the survey was representative and not biased.
- Summary data results were provided to the membership and posted to the website: <http://www.lakeclear.org/lake-clear-property-owners-association-lcpoa.html>

### ***Poker Run – George von Jagow***

The 2018 Poker Run was successful, raising \$1,899 after expenses. I thank Bonnie and Ian McCluskey for their assistance with the Poker over the past many years.



## ***Lake Clear Conservancy Liason: Liz Schultis***

### **A reason to support the LCC: Protection is forever**

All property owners cherish the beauty of the islands on Lake Clear. The LCC owns four of these islands wholly, as well as a partial interest in another, and will **permanently** protect them in their natural, pristine state. By way of property purchase or use of conservation easements, the LCC, as a registered charity and land trust, can ensure that other properties it might acquire by these means are similarly protected **forever**. Some cottagers are not sure which are the LCC-owned islands. For clarity, dust off the maps provided to you by the LCPOA several years ago, so that you can identify these islands – Green (the Crown jewel for beauty), the Twin islands, Lornie Foran, previously called Little Rock. Cherry Island is the only partially-owned property. The LCC pays no taxes on the wholly-owned islands, because it has taken active steps to change the township classification of the properties to be for conservation only. For more information, check out the LCC website, [lakeclearconservancy.ca](http://lakeclearconservancy.ca).

### **Annual Fundraiser:**

The LCC is well under way in preparing for this year's annual fundraising dinner on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The O'Brien family has again generously offered their beautiful property as a venue, on the shores of Lake Clear. The evening will include a gourmet dinner, music with a James Bond theme, cash bar, and fabulous auction items, both live and silent. Tickets can be purchased from Liz Shultis, at [roylizshultis@gmail.com](mailto:roylizshultis@gmail.com) or 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 or conservation easements 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**

Last year the LCC was permitted by the Ministry to introduce an administrative fee to help defray the costs being incurred by the LCC to control camping, as well as maintain and improve camp sites where necessary. The fee was increased this year to \$25 per camping stay, in order to get closer to covering costs of operation.

### **Egg oiling and water testing**

The LCC is co-funding and working co-operatively with the LCPOA to oil eggs on Lornie Foran Island for the express purpose of improving water quality by reducing the seagull population, and will continue that again as long as permits can be obtained. Egg oiling was done in late May for the final year of this 3-year permit. An application for renewal will be made by the LCC later this year.

These efforts are making a difference. An important element of the process and feedback to the Ministry is periodic water quality testing at several sites around the island. Testing done in June, 2019 shows that the lake water quality has improved, and this coincides with a substantial reduction in the number of nests, eggs and gulls over the three-year period. MANY thanks to the volunteers who are working on this important project!

*Liz Schultis*



## **7<sup>th</sup> Renfrew County Stewardship Forum, *One County-One Voice*, April 16, 2019 Executive Summary**

### **Introduction and Context**

The Bonnechere River Watershed Project (BRWP) and the Ottawa River Institute (ORI) co-organized and co-hosted the 7th Renfrew County Stewardship Forum held April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Canadian Legion in Renfrew on the theme of “One County, One Voice” on behalf of all nine organizations involved in the *Freshwater Partners Renfrew County* initiative ([www.freshwaterpartners.ca](http://www.freshwaterpartners.ca)) funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Forty-three participants contributed to facilitated discussions on freshwater and watershed governance topics representing the following sectors: Environmental NGO’s, Lake Property Owners Associations, Municipal Government, Agriculture, Tourism, Planners and the Mississippi Valley Conservation.

The Forum aimed to confirm the key water related issues in the county, explore the need for/value in collective action to move forward on these issues, consider potential options for a group – what form it could take, and determine the next steps/path forward. Kathy Lindsay (BRWP) and MJ Proulx (Ottawa Riverkeeper) outlined the work that has already been done by many organizations including most recently, “Freshwater Partners Renfrew County”.

### **Focus on Freshwater Concerns and Risks**

John Brady (BRWP) outlined the most commonly expressed freshwater concerns, those related to the political sphere and the lack of sustainability with these current situations. A few discussion points were added in plenary including concerns about shoreline erosion, poorly performing septic systems, trash/litter, water levels/flows/flooding/drought, financial and resource challenges for routine monitoring for health and water quality.

### **Organizing Ourselves for Success**

Participants resonated with the presentation by Karen Coulas (Muskrat Watershed Council) on reasons for and the benefits of forming a union of ideas and efforts towards, “One County, One Voice” on freshwater stewardship, and the need for change in Renfrew County. Comments confirmed the need for a common voice with core funding, and that the mechanism needs to include all sectors, indigenous groups and all levels of government.

Brian Whitehead (Renfrew County Water Quality Leadership Group and Jp2g Consulting) outlined several watershed management models that could be implemented in Renfrew County and the background on unsuccessful efforts to affect modifications to the County Official Plan. No specific preferred approach emerged, however several elements were suggested and included; imbedding a new structure within an existing organization (e.g. Renfrew County Stewardship Council), a need to understand why the previous proposal to the County of Renfrew did not get traction and what can be improve on, and that representation

on any new group needs to be thoughtful, to consider a four watershed model and will need to develop a strategy to engage “others in the endeavour”.

### **The Path Forward**

Participants expressed that the meeting had been a success and achieved the desired outcomes. A small group of volunteers agreed to convene and continue the conversation as follows: background documents and presentations will be posted on social media, and a record of the meeting and an executive summary will be prepared, posted on social media, and distributed to participants.

John Brady (BRWP) and Ian Pineau (Renfrew County Stewardship Council) volunteered to proceed with planning to form an umbrella organization to assist the various sustainability and stewardship organizations in Renfrew County to form a comprehensive group in the spirit of “One County- One Voice”. A proposal will be written, distributed and discussed with key stakeholders and interest groups/organizations in the coming months.