

# Bass Lake Property Owners Association BLPOA Communique #3- 2022

## BLPOA Educational/Informational Package -Three Publications Lake Health

Our BLPOA Water Quality Committee (WQC) is distributing an educational package this week and over the long Victoria Day weekend to all our 170 member properties. This package contains the following three publications for retention and utilization by our members.

### BLPOA Lake Health Report - TP Trends - 8 pages

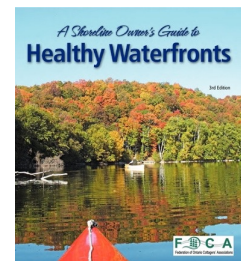
This updated Bass Lake Health Report will focus on the latest trends concerning Nutrient readings (Total Phosphorus & Total Nitrogen), and highlight the main contributors to nutrient loading in our lake;



### FOCA - Shoreline Owners Guide for Healthy Waterfronts - 18 pages

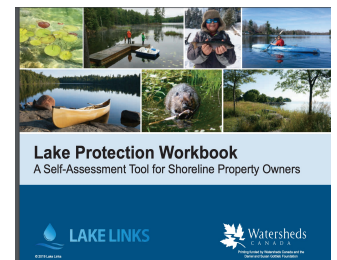
This 28-page guide “**Healthy Waterfronts**” offers information and advice on ways to make the most of our shoreline properties while living in balance with our lake’s ecosystem. Topics covered include:

- Shorelines (erosion, hardened shorelines...) & Buffer Zones
- Aquatic Plants Out of Control
- Invasive Species & Preventing the Spread
- Septic Systems
- Climate Change and Your Lake
- How to be a Good Lake Steward



### Watersheds Canada - Lake Protection Workbook - 40 pages

Members are encouraged to review and make full use of the excellent 40 page publication “**Lake Protection Workbook**” for property owners. It is produced by Watersheds Canada and Lake Links as a tool designed for you to self-assess whether activities and uses on your property are protecting your lake. Practical information, recommendations and space for recording improvements are offered to assist you in your lake protection efforts. Your completed workbook is for you to keep and is completely confidential.



**If you do not receive a copy of this package by 25 May please reach out to your respective Road Rep/President or local BLPOA Director who are all assisting with the in-person distribution.**

## **Member Notification**

### **Bass Lake - Dead Fish Sightings**

Last week and into the past weekend (12-16 May)-, a number of our members/property owners reported sightings of dead fish observed at various locations around the lake shoreline and/or while paddle boarding and kayaking. They also expressed that the quantity of dead fish seemed to be more than normally experienced after a winter season.

Spring fish kills, or localized die-offs of fish and other aquatic species, are a normal part of the seasonal cycle on a lake as a result of winter conditions causing fish and other creatures such as turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish to die. "Fish Kill" events " can be caused by disease, toxins, stress from spawning or changing water temperatures -- or certainly should there be low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water

**Too little dissolved oxygen in the water.** For a dissolved oxygen (DO) related fish kill to occur, several environmental conditions often happen at the same time. Weather patterns, water temperature, shallow waters, amount and type of plant growth, and fish community structure are all factors that can trigger a fish kill. RVCA's watershed watch program does include sampling/testing of our lake at least four (4) times a year for levels of dissolved oxygen. Yearly RVCA readings for DO have been consistently within acceptable guidelines and based on the results of the first sampling on May 6<sup>th</sup>, there doesn't appear to be any signs of low oxygen conditions within the lake. With that said, it doesn't rule out the fact that there could have been anoxic pockets within the lake during the winter that could have resulted in the winter fish kill. The RVCA's Biologist and an MNR/MECP Biologist both agree that this is likely winter fish kill.

**Spawning stress** is also a possible cause during late-spring and early-summer, especially for fish such as bass and sunfish, which can be extremely abundant in Bass Lake. Fish use up a lot of energy fighting for mates and building nests during spawning, leaving them susceptible to environmental factors, apparently spawning stress-related deaths happen after the fish have already mated and should not affect the species population levels in the following years. In fact, it may even result in more resources being freed up for young and healthy fish! Shallow lakes with excess aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms are more prone to this occurrence,

**Rapid changes in water temperature** due to unseasonably warm temperatures for example our recent record shattering hot spell so soon in early May can also cause stress and sometimes mortality in fish. The fish should be spawning right now and it is a huge use of energy for them to do that. So those two stressors combined may make some of them more vulnerable."

**BLPOA members are asked to be on the look out for any further sightings of concerning quantities of dead fish and if possible take pictures of the fish mortalities, so they can be forwarded to RVCA Biologist to see if they have any additional comments. Observations to be reported to either of following emails: [westjean46@gmail.com](mailto:westjean46@gmail.com) or [president@rideaubasslake.com](mailto:president@rideaubasslake.com)**

***Prepared By BLPOA Board of Directors***