

Bass Lake Property Owners Association Summer Newsletter #2 – 28 July 2023



*Bass Lake
Canada Day Flotilla
Thanks to all
organizers, participants
& shoreline cheerleaders*

An amazing tradition!



Thank you to all those who ventured out to participate in the “Rock the Dock” music entertainment earlier this month on 08 July. Special thanks to the “Wynne family” on B7 and the band “DWP” who once again staged this waterfront get together.

It was a beautiful afternoon and \$1,200 in donations were presented on behalf of the Bass Lake community for Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS).



KC Wynne/Road B7; Wendy Vincent/LAWS

July's Lake Water Level

As reported in our earlier Summer Newsletter, the lake water level had reached its design target around end June with no further water flowing over the Berm's rock spillway. Surprisingly, the frequent number of rainfall events throughout July has actually had the effect of raising the water level by 5 cms or 2 inches such that water is once again flowing slowly through the spillway.



In 2022, the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region (MRSR) initiated a project to address concerns raised by a group of local lake associations, including the BLPOA. These concerns were focused on waterfront property owners sourcing their drinking water from the lake through surface water intakes and the drinking water risks associated with blue-green algae or harmful algae blooms.

The project was divided into two phases. The goal of Phase 1 was to estimate the number of homes with surface water intakes within the study area, assess the vulnerability of the area and determine possible risks to the drinking water source. Seven lakes were selected for the project: Bass Lake, Christie Lake, Eagle Lake, Otter Lake, Otty Lake, Upper Rideau Lake, and Wolfe Lake. Phase 1 results did not indicate poor lake quality or that the area/lake is not a safe place to live. Rather, the results of Phase 1 demonstrate that an emphasis on researching and protecting private drinking water sources, surface water and groundwater, is required. The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region plans to address this gap in knowledge and programs through its efforts in a follow on Phase 2.

Bass Lake property owners will find the report released by MVCA and RVCA to be quite informative which provides specific survey results relating to Bass Lake. Refer to [Phase 1 Report- Source Water Protection](#)

BLPOA Water Quality Testing

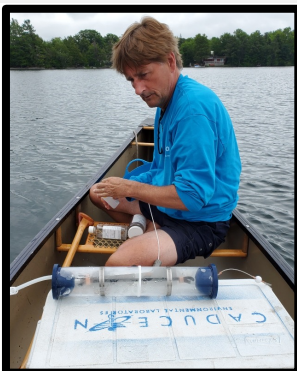
2023 Water Quality Testing Equipment:

- Science First – Fieldmaster #623-2315
- Nine (9) Caduceon Labs prepared sample bottles
- Mean Depth Mercury Temperature Gauge
- Seechi Disc – Fieldmaster #623-2010
- Temp/Conductivity Probe – AZ8361
- Cooler, White/Blue
- Paperwork for sample testing



2023-07-26

3



Gregg Revie
Road B10
27 July 2023



Role & Activities of the BLPOA

Provide Education and Resources on Various Aspects of Living on Water:

In a bid to consistently keep members abreast of emerging issues, progress, and new findings, our Lake Association provides educative content, productive tips, and best practices relating to the utilization of individual waterfront. This information is shared in variety of ways, via our website: www.rideaubasslake.com, newsletters or communiques, and meetings.

Member of the Rideau Lakes Lake Associations Committee (RLAC):

Chaired by Mayor Hoogenboom, with representation from 16 lake associations and meets at least four times per year.. The primary goal is to support the health and welfare of the Township's lake ecosystems and the enjoyment and use of those lakes by its residents, visitors and future generations alike.

Recipient of a Township Lake Association Grant which is based on lake size but more importantly the total number of member households for which we are eligible to receive up to \$10 each. Our annual amount has been approximately \$2,200.

Network with other lake associations: In particular Big Rideau Lake, Upper Rideau Lake and Otter Lake associations to identify and share best practices, common concerns and emerging trends:

- Collaborated to provide constructive critiques and inputs to update of the Township Official Plan;
- Submitted joint letter to MPP Steve Clark, conveying our concerns with Bill 23 ("More Homes Built Faster Act – 2022) stating specifically its impact on rural municipalities and the environmental health of the lakes in Rideau Lakes and Westport;
- Supporting the Township's updating of Zoning By Laws that will help mitigate the impacts of Bill 23 on waterfront properties and the health of our lakes;
- Participated and supported the MCVA- RVCA study on Source Protection - Private Drinking Water.

Promoting a cleaner, healthier lake. Continuously work with the RVCA Surface Water coordinator on watershed water quality testing followed by evaluation of RVCA and BLPOA results and findings for Bass Lake:

- Participates in volunteer water monitoring under the Ontario Lake Partner Program to understand, educate and promote water quality to all members;
- BLPOA has an established Water Quality and Lake Health Committee and has instituted its own supplementary water quality sampling program – three rounds of sampling/testing yearly at several deep-water points and shoreline sites;
- Monitoring occurrences of Blue-Green Algae outbreaks and ensuring prompt follow-up by MNR and local Health Unit response protocols.

Raising awareness of lake issues in the community. Striving to instill a sense of Bass Lake community with objective of playing a vital role in developing a stewardship program. Connecting Road Groups and property owners together on the basis of the same overall goal - the betterment of our beautiful lake.

FOCA Membership. As a member of the BLPOA, you are automatically a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. This is a \$40 value. FOCA represents 50,000 families across Ontario, and is the voice of the waterfront. Find out about all the current offers and benefits of being a FOCA member, here: <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>.



OUR LAKE NEEDS YOU –

Take a moment to join or renew your BLPOA membership

Our new membership year begins soon on 31 August 2023 . Please show your support - join or renew The \$25.00 annual fee for each property in support of our next year 2023-2024 can be submitted by one of the following means:

By etransfer - Treasurer@rideaubasslake.com [This goes directly to the BLPOA's bank account which has autodeposit) Please provide your name, Road number, and property number to identify your transfer.

By cheque made payable to “Bass Lake Property Owners Association” or cash hand-delivered to an Association Director or your local Road Representative. It can also be mailed to:

Bass Lake Property Owners Association, Attention: Cathy MacDonald/Membership
31 B4, Lombardy, Ontario, K0G 1L0

New members are asked to download and complete a BLPOA Membership Form available on the BLPOA website

Encourage your friends and neighbors to join. Your personal recommendation is very important. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you for your continued support

TOP WAYS YOU CAN HELP LOONS



Keep it Wild

Let native wetland plants grow along your shoreline, or replant if the shoreline is bare. Natural shorelines provide shelter and food for both fish and loons.



Keep it Calm & Play Smart

Slow down near wetlands and shorelines and keep your wake to a minimum. Wakes can wash out nests or separate young loons from their parents, which makes chicks easy pickings for predators. Operate play / wake boats only in water that is at least 8 m (24 feet) deep, which helps prevent sedimentation, protects wildlife, and makes for a better wake.



Steer Clear

Slow down and steer clear of loons, waterbirds, and other wildlife. They may not be able to escape your path. If adults become separated from their young, they can't protect them.



Dispose Responsibly

Take trash and fishing line to shore for proper disposal. Garbage including plastics and tackle can injure birds and other wildlife. Keep food and scraps contained, as they may increase predators around nests.



Use lead-free tackle

Loons usually ingest lead fishing gear by eating a fish that has swallowed a jig or sinker and broken the line, or striking at tackle or a fish being retrieved by an angler. Lead poisoning and death typically result. Request lead-free alternatives at your local tackle shop. .



Reduce Your Impact

Use less electricity and fossil fuels. Climate change raises lake temperatures, which causes more heavy metals to accumulate in wildlife tissues. Do not add pollutants, such as household hazardous wastes, to our rivers and lakes.