

President's Message

KATE O'HARA

Now we have turned the page on the year 2020... and what a year it was! We learned to exist in something called a pandemic, which continues to challenge all of us. The words self-isolation, quarantine and social distancing became new and integral parts of our everyday conversations and behaviour. But we all recognized the challenges we faced—in our personal lives, in our professional lives, and in how GLPOA would have to function in the face of these changing situations.

Our board realized early on that we would have to make some tough decisions and that this year would be completely different in very many ways. Unfortunately, we had to cancel some of our most popular and well attended activities such as our annual smelt fry, annual general meeting, poker run, and our volunteer appreciation dinner. Most difficult was the loss of our door-to-door canvas knowing that personal contact with the membership is the backbone of our association. But, our main concern was to keep everyone safe.

In spite of all that, we worked hard to ensure our regular business continued in a timely manner and information continued to flow. Thanks to technology and a dedicated Board, we managed to pivot (another word that became part of our new vocabulary this year!) and perform many tasks in a different way from previous years.

Our spring newsletter went



Hit the trails —be safe and be prepared See page 5.

out electronically, our website and Facebook page were updated regularly, and e-mail blasts were sent out with monthly updates to our membership from April through to September.

We held our regular Board meetings by Zoom. And we managed to Zoom our annual general meeting on the August long weekend, where we transacted necessary business and Board elections. Board members attended FOCA webinars providing assistance and information to us in dealing with the challenges presented to us as an association. (FOCA Fall seminar summary has now gone out by email to our members).

Our core GLPOA committees—Communications, Membership, Corporate Sponsorship and Lake Steward—continued to work diligently to meet and maintain the standards our membership has come to expect of us. We learned a lot this year—first and foremost

is that we are very fortunate to have such great support from our GLPOA membership, whether you are permanent or seasonal residents or corporate sponsors. We will never take that support for granted!

We also—as did so many of you—learned the value of connection, the power of kindness, and the meaning of empathy. For the year ahead we at GLPOA plan to focus on the positive, to be grateful for what we have and not dwell on what we might be missing. We'll be working on ways to bring back our social events and our membership drive in pandemic safe conditions.

On behalf of the GLPOA Board, I want to wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2021. We are hopeful for the year ahead; that it will allow us to return to getting together and working together and simply BEING together. Stay safe, stay well and be kind.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

KATE O'HARA, CHAIR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all of you who renewed or took out new membership in 2020! We finished up our year with 270 paid memberships, a substantial drop from our record numbers in 2019. This was of course due to Covid-19 conditions. Some members did not choose to venture to their properties, some were prevented from coming to the lake due to travel restrictions imposed upon them, and no door-to-door canvas took place this past summer. We promoted membership on line and many of you took advantage of those payment options, while many others made personal payments. We thank you for that support.

We hope to reinstate the personal canvas in 2021. Your membership chair will be in contact with our current slate of canvassers to see if they are comfortable with "getting back on the

road" to reconnect with their friends and neighbours as part of GLPOA. This will of course depend upon Covid conditions and we'll wait to see how this develops before we put any canvassing plans back into play. As in 2020, we will not make any plans that would put any of our members at risk.

Membership payments are welcome — and most appreciated! — at any time. If you wish to take advantage of renewal or new membership with an "early bird" payment - made by 31 March 2021 — you will be entered into a draw for a gift basket from the Cottage Cup. Details for payment options are included below and on our [website \(www.goldenlake.co\)](http://www.goldenlake.co). We look forward to a happier new year for everyone following the challenges of 2020. We are working on the premise that better days are coming — and that we'll see you at the lake and river!

GLPOA Corporate Sponsorship

JEFF RAISBECK, CHAIR

Albeit 2020 is done and dusted, COVID-19 has still found its way into every aspect of our lives. As a result, we have all had to adapt and struggle to find our new way.

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. No one knows this more than GLPOA's corporate sponsors. Anyone who owns a small business or has worked in one knows it is a difficult undertaking without having to rewrite one's business model on the turn of a dime. Depending on the business, this is what many of our corporate sponsors have had to do and continue to do as we work our way through the current pandemic.

In true Ottawa Valley fashion, it is refreshing to see our local savvy businesses are finding opportunities to rekindle consumers' interest and to start buying local. These pandemic-related challenges have presented an opportunity for businesses to rethink and implement new strategies whether it be online shopping, curb-side pickup or delivery. Community is at the heart of what GLPOA does best. It is our sincere wish that we all take an active interest in the well-being of our business community. Now more than ever is time to show our support for those that support us and explore our corporate sponsorship link via GLPOA website at www.goldenlake.co. Prosperity, health and happiness to all of us who live and play on beautiful Golden Lake and Bonnechere River.

How to pay your 2021 GLPOA membership fee

MAJOR CREDIT CARD

You can pay with any major credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express) from a secure web portal at https://foca.on.ca/product/golden_lake/

INTERAC E-TRANSFER

You can pay online through Interac e-Transfer, which is a convenient and secure way to send money directly from your bank to GLPOA. If you already bank online, go to the website of your financial institution, find the link to Interac e-Transfer and follow the instructions to sign up. Please note that your financial institution may charge you a nominal fee for the transaction.

Send your membership fee to glpoatreasurer@hotmail.com. The security question is "What river flows into Golden Lake?" and the security answer is "Bonnechere." Please type in your name and address in the sender's message (max. 40 characters). The GLPOA treasurer may reply to the sender acknowledging receipt of funds.

CANVASSER

You can wait for a GLPOA canvasser to knock on your door during the spring or summer months, and pay then.

BY MAIL

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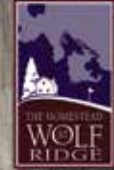
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Golden Lake & Bonnechere River Property Owners Association




Smelt Harvest

SYLVIA HILLIER, CHAIR, FISH COMMITTEE

Over the past few years, the rainbow smelt population in Golden Lake has increased substantially. The GLPOA Fish Committee and volunteers have worked to decrease the numbers through annual smelt harvests. If you would like to join us this year in our continued effort to reduce the smelt numbers in our lake, here is some information you may find useful in helping with the harvest.

What is rainbow smelt and how do you know what to look for? Take a moment to check this link for some detailed information, including photos: www.ontario.ca/page/rainbow-smelt-0.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Learn how to identify rainbow smelt.
- Never use live rainbow smelt as bait (it's actually against the law!)
- Never return portions of a rainbow smelt back into the lake; their eggs invade the waters.

PERFORM YOUR OWN RAINBOW SMELT HARVEST

- Harvest in the spring (usually April), approximately 1 week after ice goes out or the water reaches about 4 degrees Celsius
- Lamp or light system as the harvest takes place late at night
- You'll need a sturdy net, bucket(s), and hip waders
- Smelts are found in your beach area, mouth of a river or stream
- Learn how to cook them!
www.binkysculinarycarnival.com/fried-smelt

OTHER RESOURCES

www.invadingspecies.com/rainbow-smelt

www.lakesimcoeoutdoors.com/lake-simcoe-smelt-fishing.php

At this time, there is no formal smelt harvest planned, but we are offering

an incentive for anyone planning to harvest. Send us your photos of your harvest activity and your catch, and you'll be entered in a draw for a \$100 prize. Thank you to Pikwakanagan Fuels!

AND we are actively recruiting for volunteers for the Fish Committee. We are excited about some promising plans for the future. Our team welcomes your interest and participation in working to keep our lake safe for all water activities, now and into the future.

If you want additional information about our committee, please email us at glpoinfo@gmail.com, and we'll get a reply right back to you.

HIT THE TRAILS — BE SAFE AND BE PREPARED

THERESA RASP

With so many activities limited or not available to everyone due to COVID-19, there is one option that is safe, fun and perfect for getting out in the fresh winter air — snowmobiling. Our area (Snow Country, District 6) has some of the best groomed trails in Ontario, using an army of volunteers to make this happen. When you purchase your trail permit through the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (ofsc.on.ca) it ensures that your fee contributes to local club costs, and you have up-to-date information at your fingertips, including the interactive trail guide and the "Go Snowmobiling Ontario" app.

District 6 Snowmobile trails are managed on a local club level, which include:

BonnTrae, Deacon
Calabogie and District,
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Haliburton County S/A,
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Maple Leaf Snow Skimmers,
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Missing Link, Stonecliffe,
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Whitney)
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Snow Road, Ompah, Perth
Timberline, Pembroke, and
Whitewater Sno-Goers,
Cobden, Renfrew

There are some limitations to be aware of due to the current lockdown across the province; the OFSC will implement Flex Trail options for local riding as and where appropriate. Check the Interactive Trail Guide before riding. Flex Trail options include trails within a public health region being available only for local residents. Always go to the Snow Country website for updates on breaking news and best practices to prepare for a great ride!
www.snowcountrysnowmobileregion.ca/news/snowmobile-trails-grooming-operations-allowed-during-provincial-shutdown-5115.html