

President's Message

KATE O'HARA

So, here we go again into yet another Covid new year. I truly thought the 2021 Winter newsletter would be the last time I would have to write anything that contained the word Covid...how wrong was that! And here we are in 2022, continuing to make the best of very different circumstances that we cannot control. What we could – and did – control was how we responded to this experience through the past year. So, the learning curve continued. (Who knew I would be using the Greek alphabet in everyday conversation?!)

However, we are nothing if not resilient and hopeful – ever hopeful! – that we will soon be able to gather safely again in person with our GLPOA members. I believe this will happen in 2022, if we all continue to follow the rules and respect the protocols in place as we go forward. We are not planning to include face masks in the membership kits, but can assure you the Board will continue to do – and be – our very best for the lake and all of our GLPOA members.

During this past year, I believe the Board learned to expect the unexpected, and to turn problems into opportunities wherever possible. Various members took part in different meetings and webinars offered by FOCA, whose resources provide us with ways to investigate those opportunities.

We opted (again) this year not to hold our popular association social activities – the poker run and



See Lake Steward - Page 7

the volunteer appreciation dinner. However, we did hold a second Annual General Meeting in July, via Zoom format. At that meeting, our Board welcomed three new members (Rob Bryce, Janet Cotteau, Tara Wallace), and bid a very fond farewell to three long time members (Rick O'Brien, Don O'Reilly, Jeff Raisbeck). And our Board meetings continued throughout the year, the last two of which we were able to hold in person. Zoom meetings are effective, but in no way can they match the dynamic of all of us sitting at the same table sharing information, ideas and perspectives!

The Membership committee embarked on a second year of promoting membership by way of our website, our Facebook page, and by e-mail to members in each zone.

We are happy to tell you our 2021 membership stands at 307, a slight increase over the previous year. We do want to thank the members – new and renewing – who supported us this year. We also owe big thanks to the canvassers (double vaxxed!) who came forward to personally visit their neighbours, and in so doing helped us grow back our numbers this year. Let's see those numbers go up again in 2022!

Our Lake Steward and her committees remained active throughout this year, reporting on water levels, water quality/water testing, hazard marking and boating safety. More details on their activities can be found in their update in this newsletter.

Here's something we already knew,

but it bears sharing with members: our local Corporate Sponsors are among the best in the county! Each of them supported us again this year, and we gave that support back to them with our Love Local initiative. Our “Spotlight on Sponsors” profiles were featured in our monthly updates, and you can find information for each sponsor through our website, and in our newsletters. You can also check out their space on each of the billboards located at the four boat launch locations on the lake/river. We encourage our members to love local all year long. Our sponsors are a vital part of the success of your community and our association.

Our Communications Director is Chris Hamilton. His expertise allows GLPOA to be in touch with our members to share comprehensive and timely information by way of website updates (e.g., water testing procedures) and e-mail blasts (hydro rate changes, monthly updates). He also monitors our general mailbox, making sure any questions are forwarded to the correct

person for response. His talents (and patience) got us through our zoom meetings this past year. As well, he produces reports for the Board informing us of developments relating to life on the lake. Technology is a wonderful thing when it works – and we are fortunate that Chris always makes it work for us!

Our Facebook administrators are totally on top of monitoring a very large and active group of 1300+ members. They are the reason our Facebook page ensures that posts are positive, productive, appropriate and above all, respectful. We have found Facebook to be a most useful means of communication when used properly!

Our Fish Committee continues to investigate ways and means to monitor this aspect of what happens in our lake, and is also actively working to set up a separate committee to address matters relating to invasive species. Stay tuned for more details on this initiative.

SNOW DOWN 2022

SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

SNOW DOWN 2022 is a snow sculpture/art contest where anything goes, as long as its made of snow! Snow forts, sliding hills, snow angels, snow people, snow sculptures, ice art, and SNOW MUCH MORE!

IF IT'S MADE OF SNOW, IT'S A GO!

With 5 prizes of \$200 to be won, what are you waiting for?
Get out there and create!
Contest will run from January 19th until March 18.

Prizes will be \$200 gift cards from a local business of the winners choice!

Entries must be submitted to your closest municipal representative listed below.

NOTE: you do not need to be a resident of the sponsoring municipalities to enter.
ANYONE CAN ENTER! AND MULTIPLE ENTRIES ARE WELCOME!

.....
Municipal contacts:

Chris - Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards
communitydevelopment@khrtownship.ca

Dana - Bonnechere Valley
danaj@eganville.com

Laura - North Algoma Wilberforce
admin@nalgonawil.com

Hannah - Madawaska Valley
recreation@madawaskavalley.ca

Jordan - Brudenell, Lyndock and Raglan
firechief@blrtownship.ca

Best news of 2021: With the recent approval of the amendment to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan (BRWMP), we are hopeful water issues will continue to be as manageable as they were in spring 2021. Although last winter did not produce the snow pack of previous years, we believe this amendment will assist with mitigation (if not prevention!) of flood and high water level issues for our property owners and local businesses into the future. We owe great thanks to all the members of the stakeholders committee who worked so hard for so many years to achieve this change. Well done!

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. I am incredibly grateful to this Board for the endlessly positive perspectives they contributed throughout another challenging year. They are the reason GLPOA remains active and enthusiastic in representing all of our members and sponsors as their voice for the lake.

My single resolution to start this new year is to stay positive, making kindness and gratitude more contagious than anything related to Covid. On behalf of the GLPOA Board, I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. Be safe, be grateful, be patient, and above all, be kind.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

KATE O'HARA, CHAIR MEMBERSHIP

In a second year where we could not establish a dedicated group to personally canvas for members on their roads, we managed to end our year with 307 paid memberships. We thank everyone who provided us with \$20 for new and/or renewed membership. We will make sure you see a worthwhile return on that investment. Your support is very much appreciated, and we look forward to bringing you on board again for this new year!

We want to thank the canvassers who did step up to help us bring back the numbers from Covid Year One. You were a most welcome addition to the team and a great help in supplementing our e-mail campaign for membership. We look forward to having you on our slate of canvassers for the coming year!

Our plan for 2022 is to reinstate the door-to-door canvas over the 12 zones around the lake. In the coming months, Tara Wallace & Kate O'Hara (Membership co-chairs) will be contacting members in various zones to confirm a slate of canvassers for 2022. We hope you will feel safe enough to consider joining (or rejoining) this group to meet your neighbours and spread the word about our great association. Canvassing is a wonderful – and rewarding – way to meet and connect with your neighbours! If we continue to follow rules and respect protocols, we believe we can manage a safe return to making membership collection fun again. In the past couple of years we have seen the

arrival of many new property owners on the lake. It's up to us to let them know how beneficial it is to become a part of GLPOA.

We sponsored a draw prize for early bird membership payment by 31 March 2021, and Bruce Mitchell of Mundt's Bay Lane was winner of a \$100 gift certificate from The Cottage Cup. We sponsored a second draw prize for all members paid by 31 October 2021, and Barry & Joan O'Reilly of Tranquility Bay were the winners of a \$100 gift card from Foodland. Going forward, we plan to offer more draw prizes from our local sponsors. The first winner for this year will be selected from members paid by 31 March 2022. Sign up and our members and our sponsors both win!

Changes to Payment Methods

We are able to process payments by e-transfer, by cheque or cash in person to your canvassing representative. Good news, though... to facilitate payment by e-transfer, we are happy to announce a new email address where you send the payment: glpoafee@gmail.com. This email address is set up for automatic deposit, so you no longer need to provide a security question and answer. **Please provide your name and lake address in the sender message field, though, so that we can accurately credit the correct property!**

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to process payments by credit card. Please stay tuned as we investigate other options for accepting credit cards.



**SYLVIA HILLIER, CHAIR, FISH
COMMITTEE**

Your Fish Committee is ready to jump into action again in 2022 with our first committee meeting taking place in February. Plans will be discussed about the annual smelt harvest and next steps in strengthening the fish population in our lake (stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter!). We are excited to announce that we were awarded funding from FOCA as part of the Green Shovels Collaborative under the Phragmites Control Program and will engage an identification project around our lake as one initiative to ensure our waters stay healthy. Although it is cold and the ice frozen if you are in the area you will see the fishing continues – don't forget to post your catch so those not on the lake during the winter months can enjoy it along with you! Stay safe and happy fishing!!

FOCA

Remember, GLPOA is a member association of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations); that provides our paid members access to all the benefits & resources they offer. Go to their website at <https://foca.on.ca> for details on how to log in.

Junior Lake Steward Program

DAVE CLARK

We believe the newest generation of Golden Lake / Bonnechere River residents and cottagers will greatly define the future of our special piece of the Ottawa Valley. As a result, the GLPOA board is excited to announce the implementation of the Junior Lake Steward, a new initiative to help foster enthusiasm amongst our latest generation in caring for and promoting a healthy environment, boating safety and

sense of community. This program will not only inject new and exciting approaches to the association activities and issues of concern but will also provide a unique learning opportunity for students ... a win / win for sure!! The JLS program is open to all High School and Post Secondary students and successful candidates will work directly under the mentorship of the GLPOA Lake Steward, engaging in activities such as:

- Water Testing collection and results
- Promoting safe boating and shoal marking
- Fish committee activities / creel

survey tabulation and promotion

- Boat launch signage / education regarding invasive species

Successful candidates will be encouraged to develop new ideas on how GLPOA can work to sustain and improve the water quality / marine life and overall lake environment. As part of this program, Junior Lake Stewards will be exposed to many areas of key concern to the lake environment including invasive species, water quality components and indexes as well as promoting healthy marine life. As a token of appreciation for a student engaging in the JLS program and helping us keep our lake and area healthy and safe, GLPOA will provide an honorarium of \$250 at the conclusion of their participation.

Requirements / Responsibilities

- Open to Secondary and Post-Secondary students.
- Applications will be accepted April / May of each year, maximum of 2 students eligible.
- The JLS program will run during the summer vacation months, however successful candidates can be involved outside of those months depending on availability.
- The JLS responsibilities will be part time and will not interfere with other summer employment / school responsibilities.

All hours working on the lake stewardship will be signed off as volunteer hours.

Each student successfully completing the Junior Lake Steward program will be provided an honorarium of \$250 in appreciation of their efforts on behalf of Golden Lake

Keep your eyes open for the application forms to be available in April / May.

GLPOA Corporate Sponsors Update

THERESA RASP

Adapting quickly - and often - has been a hallmark of the pandemic where we've had to change our every day practices. Nowhere is this more evident than with local businesses, and our GLPOA corporate sponsors have not only led the way but have proven remarkably successful in doing so. Every one of our 44 sponsors has remained committed to our GLPOA members throughout the painful last few years, and here are just a few examples of how and why they've succeeded:

Rio Tap & Grill: Safe and flexible dining options including social distancing inside and out, along with takeout options, have kept customers as happy as possible. Owners George and Leah once again helped those less fortunate with their 200 free Christmas dinners on December 24th in addition to collecting food donations for the local food bank.

Cottage Cup/The Boathouse: Safe shopping of local goods and goodies, along with the Boathouse take-out window keep customers coming back often! Owners Amanda and Donaven Welk have also been instrumental in helping with two key local initiatives: a bench was unveiled in Eganville this past September dedicated to the memory of Paula and Ellis Bashford, and the first-ever Golden Lake Christmas tree lighting was held in December. The Welks supplied refreshments, cronuts and a huge amount of physical and moral support for both

Pharmasave: They've been tremendously busy keeping so many of us safe through their vaccinations program. Now Livia and her team have introduced the ability to pay in-store for your GLPOA annual membership! events.

We will continue our "Spotlight on Sponsors" again this year, and ask you to patronize our sponsors and buy local as often as possible. They work hard for your business.

Thank you to our sponsors...

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Golden Lake & Bonnechere River Property Owners Association




LAKE STEWARD

NATALIE CORBIN

New Boating Regulations

Ontario is taking important steps to prevent the spread of invasive species through the boating pathway, by implementing rules based on Clean, Drain, Dry Practices.

Effective 1 January 2022, boaters will be required to remove drain plugs and take reasonable precautions to remove all aquatic plants, animals and algae from their boats immediately upon removing the watercraft from a water body.

In addition, boaters will also be required to ensure their watercraft is free of all aquatic plants, animals and algae before arriving at a boat launch or launching their boat in any Ontario water body.

Go to www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-action-plans/#boaters for more information.

Buoy/Hazard Marking

Our Lake Steward, Natalie Corbin, organized an “adopt-a-buoy” program for our 2022 season. She was successful in finding “parents” for all of our buoy markers – and we thank everyone who stepped up to assist us! Markers are to be in place by the long weekend in May, and removed no earlier than Thanksgiving weekend each year. Dave Clark will coordinate the list of marker volunteers and respond to any requests from them for supplies and/or assistance. This will greatly assist us in providing a valuable

service to our members. Thanks as well to all of our buoy “parents”!

It is important to let people know we would not have been able to provide hazard marking over these past years without Eric Weckworth. Eric has been – and continues to be – an integral part of keeping the marker program in great shape and his time and efforts are appreciated by all of us on the lake and river. Thank you, Eric, and your team, for all of your time and talents volunteering for GLPOA!

Water Testing

We posted to our website detailed information on water testing procedures for Golden Lake. We ask that you please take a moment to read this as it provides a good explanation of what we undertake as an association with respect to water testing.

The water testing in Golden Lake is performed via a number of avenues including the Ministry of Environment’s Lake Partner Program (LPP), Renfrew County & District Health Unit (RCDHU) as well as individual e-coli tests performed by all businesses with beach /water activities. These testing programs provide a comprehensive view of current conditions, historical trends and scientific analysis, and comparative results to other Ontario Lakes. Our enrolment in the LPP versus the private third party testing we completed in the past not only enables access to the experts who can analyze

water samples to identify potential short term issues, but to also understand the long term impacts of changes to specific components (e.g. calcium, phosphorus), water temperature and clarity that we might not be aware of.

In conjunction with the RCDHU monitoring we believe we have a comprehensive, reactive and solid long term water testing program in place.

We extend our sincere thanks to Tammy Joudrey and Andy Trafford, who have been performing water testing for GLPOA for the past couple of years. Again, without these volunteers, we would not be able to continue with this effective program providing us with reliable information and confidence in the healthy quality of our lake.

Water Levels

Don Bishop is our chair of this sub-committee, taking over from Ron Rimmer who did such good work for us on this over the past several seasons. Don continues to post great information on our Facebook page with respect to water levels. His post on how the logs work at the dams on our water system was especially well received, explained in terms any layperson could understand! That went a long way towards eliminating misinformation and confusion about what our water levels are doing at given times.



Executive Committee

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Kate O'Hara Island View Drive.....625-1050

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dave Clark Rocky Point Drive858-1659

LAKE STEWARD

Natalie Corbin Island View Drive697-1143

TREASURER

Livia Vodenicar Golden Lake401-7629

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Sandy Nash	Pikwakanagan	625-1506
Allison Wood	Hawkins Drive	601-6000
Rob Bryce	Rocky Point Drive	219-9738
Janet Cottreau	Red Pine Camp	301-9809

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Co-Chair	Tara Wallace	633-8148
Records	Chris Hamilton	889-3148
Corporate	Theresa Rasp	462-6216

Lake & River Stewardship Committee

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Shoal Marking	Dave Clark Eric Weckworth	858-1659 625-1200
Water Levels	Don Bishop	643-3474
Water Testing	Tammy Joudrey & Andy Trafford	206-3000
Fish Committee	Sylvia Hillier	(343) 997-7402

Communications Committee

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