

Presidents' Message

Welcome to Spring 2025, where we begin celebrations for our 20th anniversary as a lake association! In 2005 a steering committee met at the (then) Golden Sands with a plan to form an association as a voice of - and for - the lake. The initial group would have no idea how we would grow to accomplish so much based on their plans. But grow and progress we have, proudly following the course they set for us.

Communication, membership and lake stewardship formed the mandate provided by that steering committee. Membership fee was established at \$20 - something we are proud to be able to continue due to strong membership support. Board members through 20 years contributed professional expertise and personal perspective to manage finances and activities for the benefit of all our membership.

VOLUNTEERS were - and continue to be - the cornerstone of our success as an association. Without them we would not have: cell service, communication by e-mail and social media, great corporate sponsorship support, almost 400 strong membership thanks to 12 zones of canvassers, lake steward activities including hazard marking, water testing and fish committee, and social events through the year. And there would be no amendment to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan to address extreme flooding events impacting so many of our members. It's thanks to our volunteers that the Snow Moon Skating Loop was yet another success, as their efforts were

instrumental to its set up, maintenance, and tear down - especially when some days the drifts were higher than we were!

All these good things are because of volunteer participation in GLPOA. It's true that "you can't pay volunteers because they are priceless". Volunteers keep us strong and viable as your representatives: for members, with local municipalities/AOPFN and other lake associations, and with FOCA. We salute each and every one of our volunteers.

So that is our past. Now we need to determine our future and where we go from here. What do we see for the association in the future? How will you as members commit to keep GLPOA strong and active? What will you contribute so GLPOA stays strong for the benefit of GLPOA? We need more volunteers to make sure we continue to grow and thrive as an association.

This year we plan to celebrate our accomplishments through the past 20 years, to recognize and thank the people who helped us achieve them. We look forward to next stages for life on the lake/river, with strong membership engaged in what we want to do. Enjoy our past – but your volunteering will ensure our future!

Co-PresidentsSylvia Hillier & Kate O'Hara

Membership Committee Report

Co-Chairs: Julie Callon and Krista Jones

GOODBYE WINTER AND HELLO SUMMERTIME FUN!!!!

Thanks to our loyal and supportive property owners and our amazing volunteer canvassers, our membership surpassed 400 in 2024! Canvassers visited neighbours, shared stories and news, and collected memberships. GLPOA is so very grateful for the support of our membership and the dedication of our volunteers. Canvassing is a terrific way to visit with your neighbours, meet new neighbours, and share your love of the lake (so many decks to relax on and so many lake views to admire!). Come join our team of volunteers!

CANVASSERS ARE NEEDED for a number of areas: have a look at the last page showing where we are looking for help. Canvassers don't need to live in these areas - it's fun to explore other roads all around the lake and river. Canvass just a couple of neighbours or canvass a "zone" - the amount of time you can offer is completely up to you! Membership Co-Chairs are always happy to answer any questions you might have. Our contact information is on this newsletter.

Your \$20 membership is integral to our association being able to provide many benefits and events: hazard marking for our safe boating, monitoring water levels and quality, helping to protect our shorelines and safe swimming, maintaining our webpage, Facebook and Instagram pages, membership in FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) with their many resources. It also includes organizing the Annual General Meeting where members can mingle, meet the volunteers, and be informed of important issues with interesting guest speakers. Our Events crew works to create & maintain the Snow Moon Skating Loop for winter gatherings, organizing the Scavenger Hunt to encourage exploring our beautiful environment, Music on the Lake. And more............. With your 2025 membership, you will receive a 20th anniversary commemorative ornament.

This year Golden Lake and Area Property Owners' Association will celebrate 20 years!!!! Welcome your canvassers, check your email, visit our webpage, and follow us on Facebook/Insta for details/updates for our members!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Website Communication

Chair: Mathew Ingram

The GLPOA website (**goldenlake.co**) has seen consistent traffic over the past few months, focused primarily on the fish-related pages, as well as water-management-related info, but things like the Snow Moon Skating Loop and the collectible fish mugs have also gotten pretty good traffic. Interestingly enough, the data shows that over 50 percent of our web traffic came from the US so far this year.

The Facebook group continues to grow, and most people seem to be abiding by the rule not to post too many commercial messages, but we've resolved a couple of issues on that front. Last year at the AGM a volunteer put up their hand to offer to take on posting images and related content to our Instagram account. Gillian Daly is now doing that and it seems popular.

20th Anniversary Events

Co-Chairs: Theresa Rasp and Natalie Corbin

Sunday, June 8 (12:00 - 4:00 pm): Fish Fry 2025

Join us on June 8th at the United Church Camp @ 64 McNee Drive for the Fish Fry, hosted by the hardworking, Fantastic Fish Committee. This annual event helps raise funds to continue the Walleye rehabilitation program. Whitewater Brewing Company was very popular last year and will be back for this year's event. The band "Spare Change" is booked and we are finalizing some fun activities for the kids. Ticket prices remain unchanged: \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids under 12. Maximum 200 tickets, and we sold out last year. Watch the GLPOA Facebook page for further details and ticket locations.

Annual General Meeting

Followed by VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Date: 12 July 2025 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Makwa Centre

Come out to celebrate 20 years of Volunteer Teamwork at the Makwa Centre on July 12 – the reason we have accomplished so much since 2025!

Mark your calendars now! Join us for a little bit of business, a time of fellowship, and recognition of those who set the course for us, together with those who continue to keep us strong. Our AGM is just one event planned for 2025 to show members and corporate sponsors our appreciation for their support. We're also taking the opportunity to honour our amazing volunteers at the same time.



Date TBD: Scavenger Hunt

Earn a point for each object spotted around the lake and points for finding the correct answer to the clues. Date to be determined based on weather. Follow us on GLPOA Facebook for updates.

August 9: Concert on the Lake

We are happy to partner with Pikwakangan Fuels again for the very popular 6th annual Concert on the Lake. This year's event is August 9th with the band S'Bourbon. Start planning now for best decorated watercraft and most unique theme alongside great music with your lake friends!

August 29: 9-and-Dine Golf Tourney

All are welcome to join us for a fun day at Whitetail Golf Course on Friday, Aug 29 which includes nine holes, cart and dinner. More details to come!

Lake Steward Report Spring 2025

Chair: Don Bishop

Water Levels Don Bishop

Spring runoff peaked at April 14 without major issues. A thaw the second week of March brought above average temperatures for several days, causing a snow melt with water levels continuing to rise slowly. The BRWMP Amendment continues to work as designed; however, there are many factors that can cause conditions to change. We were spared the snow falls that happened southwest of us in the Midland Gravenhurst areas with snowbanks over six feet from the beginning of winter!

There was still lots of ice on the lake at April 14, but with each day of warmer weather the ice diminished. Spring at the lake brings the challenge of wind blowing the ice pack onto shore, causing damage to property and shorelines. A guideline on the middle lake has been the ice is almost always off four days either side of April 20, so we would have been close to that window this year.

Shoal & Channel Marking Mark Hammer

This is the 20th season for the Hazard Marking Committee. Each Spring our team of 30 volunteers cleans, inspects and updates their equipment for deployment once floodwater levels subside. Our target is to have all buoys out by the May 24th weekend. There are 70 buoys identifying hazards and defining channels for safe navigation at 33 locations across the river and lake. In 2024, each location was updated with a GPS survey and all buoys tagged with their respective hazard area number for location identification and return in the event they break loose. Buoys remain in-place until Thanksgiving when our volunteers retrieve and store the equipment for the next safe boating season. This year we need your help to find caretakers for the markers in two locations: Marker #22 in Skelly's Bay and Marker #32 at Griffith Narrows. Contact markhammer360@gmail.com if you can help us out at these locations.

Water Testing Rob Bryce

GLPOA continues to work with the Lake Partner Program to build a history of data for Golden Lake, so we can provide a baseline against which scientists can compare, should things change. We're tracking Chloride, Calcium, Total Phosphorus and Water Transparency. Our data, along with that from over 1500 other lakes, is reviewed and provides a picture of the health of Ontario's water system. The Lake Partner Program has not updated our data online in a few years, but they do have our data in their main database; we are inquiring about when the data will be made available to our members.

Fish Committee

Co-Chairs: Don Bishop & Jay Foran

We had a productive meeting with the full GLPOA Board of Directors, where we reached many areas of common ground and continued support of the GLPOA Board and membership as we work to rehabilitate the walleye population in our lake. The WRPP itself has seen slow progress, but our persistence is starting to reap results: MNR Pembroke District recently advised their commitment to put 5,000 walleye fall fingerlings into Golden Lake in 2025.

We know 5,000 fingerlings in a lake dominated by rainbow smelt won't turn around the dwindling walleye numbers; a long term rehabilitation plan is required to put the lake back into balance. MNR has also committed to developing a broader stocking strategy for the lake, including information on stocking densities and longer-term goals for the Golden Lake fishery; the Ministry is developing a draft plan and will seek formal public and community comment. The GLPOA Fish Committee will be active in that consultation process as we continue to forge ahead. Stay tuned - it should be an interesting year.

Smelt Harvest

Jay Foran

Harkness Fish Laboratories conducted a hydroacoustic analysis of Golden Lake in August 2022 to update information on the smelt population. We have received the Harkness report, confirming the number of smelt in Golden Lake has increased since the last sonar they completed. A link to the report is posted on our GLPOA website.

Former fish committee co-chair Dr. Peter Heinermann provided interpretation of the data, and states: "it appears that the lake wide, estimated total for Rainbow Smelt (3 class sizes combined) on August 9-10, 2022 was 11,369,358, while on August 12-13, 2010, it was 8,515,592 and on July 29-30, 2009, it was 9,883,671. These totals are based on combining three size classes: Young of the Year (25-62 mm), Yearling and Older (62-186 mm) and Size Class 3 (186-250 mm) of fish. Overall numbers for smelt are worrisome since the greatest increases appeared to come in the young of the vear Rainbow Smelt which increased about 2.6 million between 2010 and 2022". Increased rainbow smelt population is decimating the eggs, fry and early to mid summer fingerlings of the few remaining walleye in the lake and, they do not limit their feeding habits to just



walleye but to all species. Increasing top predators in the lake is needed to keep smelt numbers in check.

By the time you read this, the 2025 Smelt Harvest will have wrapped up. Promotion of the smelt harvest has resulted in increased numbers of harvesters travelling to the area from Renfrew County and beyond, bringing in people from Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Caledonia. This year we were again contacted by new harvesters wanting to join us. This brings increased economic benefits to the area and raises awareness of the "Rainbow of Destruction" we are experiencing in our lake.



Treasurer's Report

Chair: Livia Vodenicar

The Financial summary for the 12 month period ending 31 December 2024 shows a starting balance on 1 January 2024 of \$25,597.63 revenue of \$25,597.63, disbursements of \$15,552.84, and a balance on 31 December 2024 of \$28,635.69

All records are given to an outside accountant for review and final report will be given at the Annual General Meeting 12 July 2025.

Elbows Up for our Sponsors!

Chair: Theresa Rasp

Throughout GLPOA's 20 years, our corporate sponsors have been with us in good times and bad, their financial support allowing us to do our jobs with this important community association. Water testing, shoal marking, events, communications, canvassing, and advocacy cannot be carried out without them!

In these turbulent times Canadians are responding with their retail might. More than ever, we are supporting homegrown businesses and our sponsors offer us everything in products and services for new and existing homes,

groceries, hospitality, financial planning, leisure, wellness and transportation (vehicles, power sports, gas). Keep our loyal, local businesses at the top of your shopping list. Elbows Up!



























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Membership Zones & Canvassers

Muskie Lane, Green Gate

Zone	Location	Representative
Zone 1	Golden Lake Village Pikwakanagan	*Volunteers Needed* Sandy Nash (613-625-1506)
Zone 2	Island View Drive, Red Pine Camp Way, Abby Way & Log Cabin Trail	Christine Leclair-Day (christineleclaireday@yahoo.ca)
Zone 3	Mundts Bay Lane Twin Maple Lane Highway 60 #11917-12573	George/Isabel Wouda (613-281-2644; giwouda@gmail.com) Shelley Termarsch (shelley.termarsch@gmail.com) *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 4	McMillan Rd. – Section 1 McMillan Rd. – Section 2 Goldfinch Dr., Kasdorff Lane	Mary Beatty (marybeatty777@gmail.com) *Volunteers Needed* *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 5	Hwy60: McMillan-Deacon Hwy60: Sands-Browns Brown's Cres., McNee Drive	*Volunteers Needed* *Volunteers Needed* *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 6	Black Point Rd. Harrington Rd. Great Heron Lane L'Escale Lane	Laurie Clark (laurieclark43@gmail.com) Burk Hein (24bh53@gmail.com) Jennifer Cumper (cumper1982@gmail.com) *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 7	Hawkins Drive Nien-Mar Lane Skelly Lane, Sheedy Lane, & Bob's Lane Bonnechere Lodge Sleepy Hollow Lane	Julie Callon (613-702-6612) Sylvia Hillier (343-997-7402) Julie Callon (613-702-6612) Ernie Bies (613-851-3666; erniebies@yahoo.com) Ernie Bies (613-851-3666; erniebies@yahoo.com)
Zone 8	Golden Lyn Way & Golden Mile Way Cedar Beach Lane, Lynch-Reid Lane, Richards Lane & Billena Way McSearsull Way, Ruby Rd.	David Costello (dcostello61@gmail.com) Walter Jackowlew (519-831-4977; walter.jakowlew@yahoo.com) *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 9 Zone 10	Rocky Point Dr. #1 Rocky Point Dr. #2, Mundt L Tranquility Bay Tramore Road #778-870 Libby Lane	Sheila Kennedy (kennedysm@hotmail.com) Chris Hamilton (613-889-3148; chris.d.hamilton57@gmail.com) Sheila Kennedy (kennedysm@hotmail.com) Judith Hartwig (613-633-6162; bonnecherepoet@gmail.com) *Volunteers Needed*
Zone 11	Tramore Rd #871-1195 Tramore Rd #1196-1476 Bonnechere River Lane Eady Rd. Narrows Lane, Jeffries Lane, Okum Lane	Mary Robertson (705-205-0832) *Volunteers Needed* Judith Hartwig (613-633-6162) Gary Cooper (705-653-2353; pgcoops621@gmail.com) Gary Cooper (705-653-2353; pgcoops621@gmail.com)
Zone 12	Carty Rd., Whitechurch Rd. Karmak Haven Rd.	Dennis Brock (dn_brock@hotmail.com) *Volunteers Needed*

Lu-Ann Clark (416-669-1009; pl_clarke@rogers.com)

Directors at Large Dave Clark Rocky Point Drive 613-858-1659 Theresa Rasp Island View Drive 613-462-6216 **Natalie Corbin** Island View Drive 613-697-1143 Julie Callon **Hawkins Drive** 613-702-6612 Krista Jones Memory Lane 519-385-2470 Great Heron Lane Toni McLeod 819-921-8669 Mathew Ingram Island View Drive 647-967-4695 **Allison Wood Hawkins Drive** 613-601-6000 Pocky Point Drivo Dob Duves

Rob Bryce	Rocky Point Drive
613-219-9738	
Janet Cottreau 613-301-9809	Red Pine Camp
Committees	
Membership Com	mittee
Co-Chairs	Julie Callon,
	Krista Jones
Records	Toni McLeod
Corporate Sponso	
Chair	Theresa Rasp
Communications	<u>Committee</u>
Chair	Mathew Ingram
Website, Mailbox	Mathew Ingram
Newsletter	Allison Wood
Instagram	Gillian Daly
FaceBook	Allison Wood,
	Natalie Cobin
Lake/River Stewar	d
Chair	Don Bishop
Shoal Marking	Mark Hammer
Water Levels	Don Bishop
Water Testing	Rob Bryce
Invasive Species	Rich Juhasz
Fish Committee	
Co-Chairs	Don Bishop,
	Jay Foran
Events Committee	2
Co-Chairs	Natalie Corbin,

	Jay Foran
Events Committee	
Co-Chairs	Natalie Corbin,
	Theresa Rasp