



Newsletter Volume 36, No 1, January, 2017

**Messages from the President:**

Our 2017 cottage season has begun on Big Gull.

Since we last communicated several events and decisions have occurred that will affect our life on the lake.

**Energy Rates** are going up and will continue to do so for the next ten years. Our seasonal class designation has disappeared and more than half our seasonal residents will move to a class 2 designation – that means \$65 per month increase or more than 177%.

**Watershed conditions** continued to be categorized at the severe drought level over the fall—they have recently been downgraded from moderate to minor. For more information, you can go online to [www.mvc.on.ca/water-levels](http://www.mvc.on.ca/water-levels).

**Algonquin Land Claim:** the federal and provincial government have signed the Agreement in Principle with the Algonquin of Ontario that will lead to the sign-over of current land claims including the area around Crotch Lake. More information can be obtained from the following line: <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/ottawa-ontario-algonquin-agreement-in-principle-1.3809876>

**Wind Turbines.** The current local fight by the Bon Echo Area Residents against Turbines (BEARAT) against the provincial government's plan to increase the number of wind turbine projects has had a significant win. The Ontario Government has recently decided to suspend Large Renewable Procurement II – bringing a halt for the time being to further wind turbine expansion plans.

**Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations:** My term as president of FOCA has been completed. We can still look forward to continued local participation with the presence Lynda Corkum on the FOCA Board of Directors. I continue to encourage those who have not signed on to the FOCA Website to do so. There is no charge and you will access a wide variety of resources ranging from Political/Advocacy, Lake Environment, Waterfront living, Safety and Risk Management, to numerous FOCA publications. (See [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca))

**Kids' Fishing Derby:** This event continues to attract our younger cottagers and visitors and will again run in the 2017. For an excellent summary of the 2016 fishing derby please check out the photos on ([www.bgleeca.ca](http://www.bgleeca.ca))

**Other events:** Don't forget to review the announcements for the golf tournament, kid's fishing derby, the sailboat regatta, and the triathlon in the upcoming May newsletter. I would also bring your attention to a new event planned for 2017—we will be organizing a dock sale so you can start identifying items at the cottage which need a new home.

**Sad News: The Passing of Lois Braunsdorf:** Big Gull Lake has lost a resident of more than 44 years. Lois was known for her love of swimming and kayaking, serving excellent hors d'oeuvres, for her love of her dogs and cats, and for proudly displaying pictures of her grandchildren and great grandchild on her cottage walls. Our sympathy goes out to Ed and her entire family.

**New Directors:** Our Annual General Meeting will be the final one for our Director of Environment Lynda Corkum. If you are interested in the lake and wish to volunteer a little of your time, I would be pleased to hear from you. You can reach me at the lake at 613 479 0064 or at home at 613 226 4821.

**BGLEECA Financial Report:**

**Financial Report  
Fund Activity Summary, August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017**

|                          | <b>General Fund</b> | <b>Calendar Fund</b> | <b>Environ. Fund</b> | <b>Totals</b> | <b>North Shore Road Fund</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Beginning Balance</b> | 14,741              | 2,360                | 17,858               | 34,959        | 11,168                       |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>    | 834                 | 2,190                | -                    | 3,024         | 2,200                        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>    | 1,827               | (91)                 | -                    | 1,736         | 6,295                        |
| <b>Current Balance</b>   | <b>13,748</b>       | <b>4,641</b>         | <b>17,858</b>        | <b>36,247</b> | <b>7,073</b>                 |

as of 1/24/2017

Prepared by Debbie Bird

**Our Website**

We are continually reviewing material to be posted on the BGLEECA Website and encourage all members to visit their site regularly ([www.bgleeca.ca](http://www.bgleeca.ca)). We have had successful sales of cottage items, cottage rentals, and will continue to post links to other sites that are of interest to cottagers. And remember, if you have ideas to share, let us know.

## **Environmental Report:**

### **Freshwater Jellyfish in Big Gull Lake by Lynda Corkum**

Cottagers have reported the presence of Freshwater Jellyfish in Big Gull Lake. This is a surprise to many because the relatives of Freshwater Jellyfish are found in the sea. Freshwater Jellyfish are not native to Canada, having arrived originally from China. They now occur in lakes and rivers in temperate climates all over the world. Unlike their marine relatives, Freshwater Jellyfish don't harm humans because their stinging tentacles don't pierce the skin of mammals. There are more than 20 species of Freshwater Jellyfish, but only one freshwater species, *Craspedacusta sowerbii*, occurs in North America (Smith & Alexander Jr. 2008 *J. Plankton Res.* 30:1323-1327).

**Name:** *Craspedacusta sowerbii* (sometimes referred to as *C. sowerbyi*) is named after James Sowerby (1757-1822), an English artist, painter, and natural historian. The species is the taxonomic phylum, Cnidaria, a group of aquatic animals that includes hydra, sea anemones and jellyfish.

**What do they look like?** There are two body forms of Freshwater Jellyfish, the **polyp** and **medusa**. Cottagers see the floating medusa stage, not the polyp. Watch for blooms of medusa in August and September when water is warm and prey are plentiful.

**Polyps**, which form colonies, live on the bottom of lakes and rivers, often attached to rocks. Polyps are cold tolerant and overwinter as resting bodies. Polyps (only 2 to 8 mm long, about ¼ inch) lack tentacles. Polyps reproduce asexually and given the right conditions form a medusa that breaks away from the colony.

**Medusae** are bell or umbrella-shaped bags of jelly that float in the water. The velum, which is the sheet of tissue forming the underside of the bell, extends and folds inward from the margin of the umbrella, ending in a circular opening through which the mouth protrudes. Medusae are white, translucent (5 to 25 mm, the largest about the size of a quarter) animals that grow up to reproduce sexually. Gametes, released into the water, join to form a zygote that develops into a ciliated larva. The larva settles on the bottom to form a polyp. Medusae may form dense blooms in some years, but may be absent in other years.

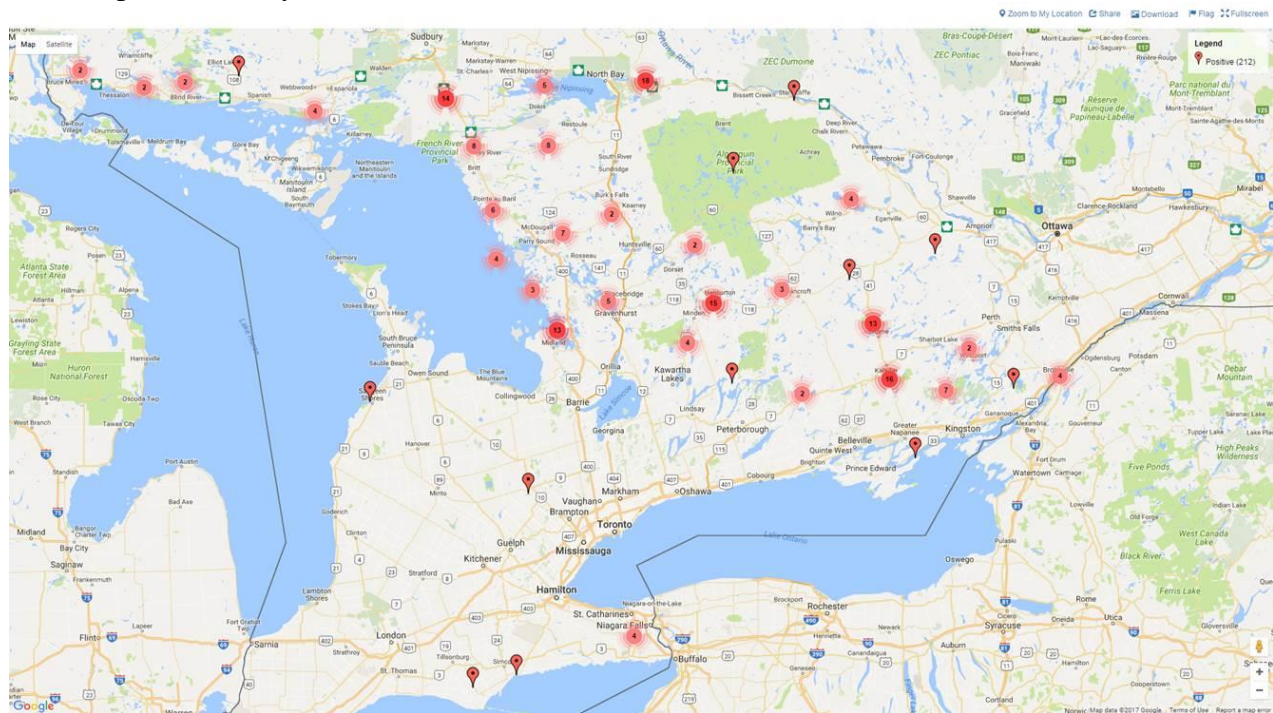
**What do they eat?** Both polyps and medusae eat zooplankton and so may compete with larval fish for food. The polyp feeds when zooplankton come into contact with the stinging cells at the top of the polyp. These stinging cells surround the mouth opening at the center of the polyp top. By contractions, the polyp engulfs the trapped food. Medusae have short and long tentacles that extend along the edge of the velum. Short tentacles, which sting and paralyze zooplankton, are used for feeding; long tentacles stabilize the animal when it swims.

**How did they get here?** Freshwater Jellyfish spread from its native region in China by attaching to aquatic plants such as water hyacinths. Medusae also were transported in the ballast water of ships. Once in North America, Freshwater Jellyfish spread from one lake or river to another by bait bucket transfer by anglers and by attaching to aquatic plants, stocked fish and waterfowl (<https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1068>).

**When did they get here?** Freshwater Jellyfish were first reported in the U.S. in Benson Creek, Kentucky (1916) and spread to the Great Lakes (1933) and later to Ontario in Parry Sound Harbour, Georgian Bay (1952) (Mills et al. 1993 *J. Great Lakes Res.* 19:1-54; McAlpine et al. 2002 *J. Freshwater Biol.* 17: 341-344). Once in Ontario, Freshwater Jellyfish spread quickly throughout the province. Blooms of jellyfish were first seen in Big Gull Lake 28 August – 3 September 2012 and reported to Terry Peard to add to his many sightings. Other Canadian locations include British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick. Because of the lag time between when polyps are established and when medusae are observed, the species is more widespread than realized (Duggan & Eastwood 2012 *Aquatic Invasions* 7:271-275).

### **Current provincial distribution of Freshwater Jellyfish**

*Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program*, a partnership between the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, tracks occurrences of Freshwater Jellyfish through the online application of the **Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System, EDDMapS Ontario** ([www.eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario)). EDDMapS Ontario was developed in partnership with the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. This mapping system allows users to report occurrences of invasive species, either through the website or by using the free App, view distribution maps of invasive species, and view additional information on the species. Many of the records of Freshwater Jellyfish in EDDMapS Ontario are courtesy of Dr. Terry Peard, while other have been submitted directly to EDDMapS Ontario by concerned Ontario citizens.



Distribution map of Freshwater Jellyfish (courtesy of EDDMapS Ontario, [www.eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario))

**For more information** on Freshwater Jellyfish, please see Dr. Terry Peard's website, [www.freshwaterjellyfish.org](http://www.freshwaterjellyfish.org). Also, see [www.eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario). Videos of Freshwater Jellyfish medusa may be seen by searching YouTube.

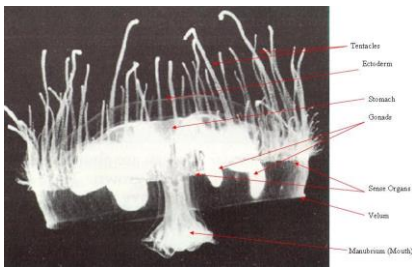
**Acknowledgements:** I thank the kind assistance of Dr. Terry Peard (Retired Professor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania) and Jeff K. Brinsmead (Senior Invasive Species Biologist, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

The following photos of the polyp and medusa were obtained from [www.freshwaterjellyfish.org](http://www.freshwaterjellyfish.org) with permission from Dr. Terry Peard.



**A double polyp colony with a medusa bud.**

The medusa bud is projecting from the upper right edge of the colony. The yellow colony is due to recently feeding on a brine shrimp.



**The medusa**

**DOCK SALE!**

**Saturday July 08 2017, from 9am – 1pm**

BGLEECA is holding its first On-water Garage Sale. This event will work just like a regular garage sale but the participants will have their sale items on their docks and the buyers will arrive by boat.



To identify themselves as a sale participant, cottagers should buy a brightly coloured (yellow, red, orange, lime green etc) bristol board and place it on their dock in a location that is visible from the lake. More details, if any are needed, will be provided in the packages that the area representatives will deliver in the spring. Reminder signs will be posted on the BGLEECA information boards on the cottage roads a week or two before the event.



## GIANTS LIVE IN THE FOREST AROUND BIG GULL!

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As Canada begins its celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, we have trees around our lake which germinated decades before Canada was even a country. The Eastern White Pine, our provincial tree, are the giants of our boreal forest. The largest Eastern White Pine in Ontario is near Arnprior. It has a circumference of a whopping 5.7 meters and measures 47 meters tall, that's taller than a 13 story building and well over 200 years old.

Alamy stock photo



## COTTAGE GARDENING

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Why not grow your own pumpkins for Halloween this year! You can watch your Jack-O-Lantern grow all summer. Be careful not to start too early,

Robert O'Brien photo



We have a tree in front of our cottage which is so big two adults can barely put their arms around it. Our forest giant climbs above the forest canopy and has a magnificent view over the lake. If you were to take a boat ride, you can see these giants towering above the treeline.

Some have unfortunately died and only their weathered grey trunks remain, but continue to provide an important home for many birds and animals. These massive trees can still withstand the high winds of summer storms and weight of winter snow and ice.

Next time you are out on a hike and need a rest, sit down under a big White Pine and look up through their canopy towards to the top of the tree. Imagine the history that tree has seen standing on that very spot for over 100 years.

because frosts continue into May, To be safe, plant the second weekend in June, when daytime temperature averages around 20°C.



Pumpkins need full sun; the vines will grow really long, often over 3 metres, so pick an area with lots of space for them. You need good drainage, next to a south facing slope is perfect. Remember, if you plant next to your lawn, the vines will quickly take over that area.

Soil for your planting bed should be mixed with some compost materials or just purchase some planting soil and mix in some peat moss.

Pumpkins take 90 to 120 days to fully grow, so starting in mid-June will give you pumpkins by late September. The seed package usually has the growing chart listed on the back.

Make a nice raised hill ready to insert your seeds, using a hoe or just by cupping your hands together and bringing the soil together in a slight pile. Stick one finger into the pile of soil down to the second digit in your finger...perfect! Don't worry which end of seed is up, the plant will find its way to the surface in about 10 days after you plant.

Once the plant breaks the surface add some more compost to help keep the weeds down and retain moisture. Vines

are pretty tough so don't worry if you are away during the week, they can take care of themselves. It's fun to watch how quickly they grow between visits to the cottage.



pumpkin nook photo

The secret is to only water when the plant looks droopy, give them a long drink. Occasional water is better for the plant.

**DON'T GET WATER ON THE LEAVES THIS CAN CREATE MILDEW AND KILL THE PLANT.**

Just water the surrounding area, the plants roots will find the water source. During the summer you might want to water in some fertilizer a couple of times to give them a bit of a growing boost in July and August.

Early blossoms are usually all male and fall off quickly. These flowers contain pollen which attracts bees to your pumpkin patch. The females have a bulb at their base which is the "gourd".

Once your pumpkin has turned orange, its growing season is coming to an end. If you can easily indent your fingernail into the skin, it is too early to harvest. When the outside shell is hard enough and you see the vines have twisted and begin to die off, you are ready to harvest.



DYI network photo



alamy stock photo

Never pick up your pumpkin in the garden by its stem, it could break away and start to rot quickly. Cup your hands around the "gourd" if you want to lift it up. You might consider placing some straw under the fruit to keep it out of mud.

Make sure you leave plenty of stem on the pumpkin when you cut it off the vine. You need that to lift the cap off the pumpkin when you carve it...Happy Halloween!

## FOOT PRINTS IN THE SNOW

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Ualberta.ca photo



Taking a hike in the winter can be like being a detective trying to guess what animals have left tracks in the snow. My favorite tracks are from the Lynx!

The lynx is a member of the cat family, so its claws "retract", which means they are pulled back inside their paws, protecting them from getting dull while it walks. Their very sharp claws pop out when they climb trees, hunt prey or defend themselves against other predators.

Most animals have their claws in front of the paw in their footprints. But the lynx leave no claw impressions, so they are easy to identify.

Lynx eat mostly rabbits, so they hunt at night and have extremely sharp hearing, night vision for hunting and excellent sense of smell. They have a wide paw



with lots of fur between the pads, which act like snowshoes for them.

[www.wallpaperup.com](http://www.wallpaperup.com) photo



Lynx don't sink down into the snow when they walk, like most animals. Their wide paws enable them to run on top of the snow to chase their prey.

Our family were at the cottage for Christmas this year and had lynx tracks on our driveway and along Helen Lane. You could easily see its path following a group of rabbits tracks in the snow.

[www.bear-trackers.com](http://www.bear-trackers.com) photo



| 2017 Directors    |                  |                      |          |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Position          | Name             | Address              | Phone    |
| President         | Ken Grant        | 1054A East Belcham   | 479-0064 |
| Vice President    | Donna Commerford | 1178B Helen Lane     | 479-2901 |
| Treasurer         | Debbie Bird      | 1302 Marshview Dr    | 479-8071 |
| Secretary         | Anne Racicot     | 1025 Oak Ridge Point | 479 8802 |
| Environment       | Lynda Corkum     | 1029 Gnage Lane      | 479-2743 |
| North Shore Rd    | David Cox        | 1050 Oak Ridge Point | 479-9944 |
| Director at Large | Keith Rowe       | 1122 Helen Lane      | 479-2238 |

*Thanks to our Newsletter Editor Leslie Maitland for her contributions in the production of this newsletter.* If you have suggestions for the newsletter, contact Leslie at [lesliemaitland99@gmail.com](mailto:lesliemaitland99@gmail.com)

## Dues and Fees 2017

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>Full Membership Annual Dues: \$30</b><br>Members receive newsletters and email updates, calendars, and access to FOCA member benefits. Your dues also support lake activities, our website, and director's liability insurance. | \$30  |
| <b>Associate Membership (Non-cottage owners): \$10</b><br>To stay connected with newsletters.  | \$10  |
| <b><u>North Shore Road Maintenance Fees: \$200</u></b><br><i>For cottages on: Belcham Lane East &amp; West, Bell Lane, Lowry Lane, Hanbidge Lane, Marsh View Drive and Oak Ridge Point.</i>  | \$200 |
| <b>Total (Canadian Funds only please)</b>  |       |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cottage Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Providing your email address will allow us to send you BGLEECA newsletters and alerts throughout the year.*

Please make cheque payable to: BGLEECA

Mail to our treasurer: Debbie Bird, 5766 Queenscourt Cr. Manotick, ON K4M 1K3

OR

Pay by Email transfer through online banking to Debbie Bird - [bgleeca@icloud.com](mailto:bgleeca@icloud.com)

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