



## Newsletter

Volume 31, No 1, Jan 31, 2013

Dear Association Members:

**President's Message:** Welcome to the 2013 cottage season. This edition of our bi annual newsletter will continue with our regular features: updates from the 2012 AGM, a current financial status report, an Environmental Report, an update on the status of the Algonquin Land Claim, an overview of Lake Planning and request for volunteers, and announcements of important planning dates for the upcoming season. This is a reminder that attached to this newsletter is our 2013 dues sheet. When you send in your dues, please fill out your current mailing and email address. This is the only way we can ensure that we are able to communicate with you. Last year, we were able to send newsletters via email to approximately 40 % of our membership at a considerable savings in postage and printing costs.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Russ Finch, a long time cottager and enthusiastic contributor to the Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association.

Did you know that BGLEECA offers the following services/products to members?

- GYPSY MOTH KITS : \$12 per kit
- AQUATIC WEED CUTTING: \$25
- BGLEECA COOK BOOKS: \$10 Algonquin
- HATS AND TEESHIRTS: \$20 per

**2012 AGM:** Matt Craig from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority gave an overview of the activities and programs of MVCA and then talked about Lake Planning. He explained that it

has become an important tool in protecting the lake shore and water quality in the lake. Themes which are usually part of a Lake Plan include the history of the lake, the topography, the flora and fauna, development, and the social traditions and values of the cottagers on the lake.

The following lake shore residents were recognized for their contributions to cottage and lake community activities: Sandy and Bill Phypers, Eric Williams, Jim Kuhr, Mel Thompson, Chuck Carolan, Steve Palmer, Jim Commerford, Nancy Gibson, Bill Hindson, Bev Williams, Virginia Grant and Gord Ericson.

Elections were held for Lake Steward and Secretary Positions—Ken Grant and Donna Commerford were renewed in their respective positions.

The following represents our financial picture as of Dec 31, 2012:

General Fund	3,596.46
North Shore Rd Fund	1,513.96
Environmental Fund	17,858.19
Welfare Fund	2,137.27
Insurance Fund	3,500.87
Calendar Fund	3,170.83
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>31,777.58</b>

**Algonquin Land Claim Update:** The Algonquin Land Claim Agreement in Principal is now available for public review. In overview, 117,500 acres or 14,000 square miles of Crown Land is being proposed for transfer involving 200 separate parcels of land. There are eight locations

identified in North Frontenac: a parcel on Fortune Land, one between Buckshot and Brule Lakes, one near Mississagagon, one near Shawenegog and Sand Lake, two pieces on Norcan Lake, and three small pieces on Crotch Lake. In addition, there is a proposed provincial park which encompasses land surrounding Crotch Lake. All lands that are transferred will be treated as privately held lands and will be subject to municipal taxation, local zoning bylaws, and the Ontario Building code. The final settlement will include a financial package, parcels of titled land, economic development opportunities, and an agreement on harvesting rights including logging, hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. Privately owned land will not be expropriated for the land claim settlement and access to private land will be protected. Public consultation will be organized in 2013. Information about the AIP is available at two sites:

[http://www.tanakiwin.com/aip/Map\\_C-ALC\\_Proposed\\_Algonquin\\_Settlement\\_Lands\\_Frontenac\\_County.pdf](http://www.tanakiwin.com/aip/Map_C-ALC_Proposed_Algonquin_Settlement_Lands_Frontenac_County.pdf)

<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca/english/negotiate/aboutclaims/aboutclaims.asp>

In addition to Settlement Lands, the AIP has also designated parcels of Crown Land as Protected Land. One such area on and adjacent to Big Gull Lake is crown land extending from the East Basin/South Shore close to the South Narrows including Long Island. This means that this is a parcel of Crown Land which is of cultural or historic importance to the Algonquins and they are seeking special protection. If the proposal proceeds to final agreement, it is my understanding that the Algonquins would become participants in Crown Land use planning for Protected Lands.

### **Lake Plan/Lake Stewardship Plan:**

Healthy shorelines and lakes support our plants, microorganisms, insects, amphibians, birds, mammals and fish. They also support a myriad of people activities: a quiet boat ride, a late afternoon trolling for fish, a leisurely evening swim, or an early morning coffee on the dock—all of these require a healthy lake.

To ensure that Big Gull Lake is and will continue to be a valuable part of our cottage life, I am suggesting that it is necessary that we engage the Big Gull Lake community. We need to:

- Identify what makes the Big Gull Lake area a unique and desirable place to live and visit
- What are the challenges to maintaining its character?
- Are we concerned about development?
- Are there actions that need to be taken to sustain the environmental, social and cultural health and viability of the Big Gull Lake area?.

To those who may say Why Now? The best answer is Why Not Now! A number of shore line residents approached me following our most recent AGM and supported the idea of the BGLEECA taking on the task of developing a Lake Plan.

What is involved? Typically a Lake Plan would require a dedicated group of lake shore owners working together with the guidance of a process expert to cover some and or all of the following themes:

- The Natural Environment: forest, shoreline, wetlands, animals and their habitat, exotic species, species at risk
- Water Quality: the watershed, dams and water levels, overview of water quality, lake turnover
- Fisheries and fishing: fishing history, species, future implications
- Social and Recreational Activities: survey of activities, guidelines on recreational behavior, recommendations and actions
- Emergency and Municipal Services: Fire and Rescue, Ontario Provincial Police, Ambulance Services
- Land Use and Development: the official Plan, Zoning bylaws, concerns about future development

Developing a Lake Plan is a two to three year project that involves all members of the community. The themes of the Plan are

determined and a survey is conducted of all shoreline residents to ensure their input. This is followed by public consultation with all residents as the plan develops. The objective is to identify those values we all think are important to our lives and our investment in Big Gull Lake.

If you are interested in being involved please contact me (Ken Grant-- phone 613 226 4821 or email [KenWGrant@sympatico.ca](mailto:KenWGrant@sympatico.ca) ). We need you and your ideas—A Lake Plan is not a project carried out by the BGLEECA directors—rather it is your project.

### DAVID COX'S NORTH SHORE ROAD UPDATE

I was on #10 and Mosquito Lake Pkwy. on Jan 5, 2013 and there was a lot of snow around the area.

We had some monies left over from 2011 and therefore allowed me to get more work completed on our road system.

In May 2012, 107.3 tons of white gravel was applied to #10. In June 2012, Marshview Drive was worked on at the east end at the twin culverts. These twin culverts not only drain Mosquito Lake, but also drain water from the west side of #10. In July the sides of our road system were cut, removing grass, weeds and small trees. In Oct 2012, 152.2 tons of white gravel was applied to Mosquito Lake Pkwy. A belly dump tractor trailer was used to apply the white gravel on #10 & Mosquito Lake Pkwy. In late Oct. 2012, the application of white gravel continued from the end of the marsh on Marshview Drive to just past the twin culverts. This year should complete our entire road system being covered with white gravel. #10 & Mosquito Lake Pkwy have been done twice.

Just a note about a few cottagers who think they do not have to pay for road maintenance, I have contacted a Lawyer in Kingston and I am going to start legal action against those who have not paid. It is not fair that most of us pay the road fees and others do not. The value of our cottages increase in relationship with the quality of the roads to our cottages.

I have plans for more signage on our road system and a clean up at the top of the hill on Belcham East in 2013.

Any suggestions or comments can be directed to the road manager.

David G. Cox 613 379 9944 613 548 4107  
Road Manager

**Fire Ban:** A request has been made to erect a Fire Ban Indicator Sign on Greer Road near the intersection with Ardoch Road. Our Fire Chief, Steve Riddell has acknowledged the request and plans to erect a sign in 2013.



### FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATIONS:

You can receive your latest updates on issues that matter to waterfront property owners. There is no need for you to join FOCA because you are already a member through our cottage association. To access monthly updates, go to the FOCA website

[www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) and type your email address into the box at the right that says "Receive FOCA Elerts". Topics of interest include biodiversity, water quality, algae blooms, septic systems, lake planning, water and boat safety, invasive species, and many other topics.

Some of the current initiatives include successfully lobbying the Ontario Energy Board for reduced distribution rate charges for seasonal customers' electricity rates; reconfirming the Lake Partner Program with the Ministry of Environment; lobbying for clearer recognition of the significance of waterfront lands, through our participation in the Provincial Policy Statement review.

New benefits to members include special pricing for CAA memberships, discounts on Cottage Life Renewals, and discounts on Fire Products. This is in addition to the cottage, road, and director's liability insurance discounts.

### Environmental Report:

●**Bubble or not to bubble:** A recent development targeted at protecting docks and boathouses from ice damage is the use of a bubbler. The principle of a bubbler is that they cause warmer bottom water in the winter to be lifted up to the cooler surface water. The issue is that while a bubbler

may keep open water in front of one's dock, they also create a hazard to people and animals. If someone suffers bodily harm, the property owner can be vulnerable to civil and criminal code litigation. To mitigate against liability, some property owners have installed signage and flashing lights to warn against open water.

● **Trumpeter Swans** appear to be making a comeback in Eastern Ontario. They have been sighted on Big Gull Lake, on Silver Lake, and Mississippi Lake. Naturalists report that they typically nest in a marshy area, lay 3 to 12 eggs, and are vegetarian—feeding almost entirely on aquatic plants.

● **Aquatic Vegetation:** As we have mentioned before in past newsletters, a healthy lake is one that has aquatic vegetation. One species that is increasing in the quiet waters of bays and backwaters of Big Gull Lake is the **European Frog-Bit**. It is a free floating aquatic plant that is native to Europe and was originally introduced to Ontario as an ornamental aquatic plant in the 1930's. It reproduces through seed as well as vegetative means. New plants can arise from lateral runners and winter buds. The buds break apart from the plant in the late fall, sink to the bottom of the lake and lay dormant over the winter. In spring, they float to the surface and produce new plants. A single plant may produce as many as 100 buds. Large infestations create dense impenetrable mats of floating vegetation that prevents sunlight from reaching other submerged aquatic plants thus affecting their survival. In the fall the decomposition of huge volumes of vegetation reduce dissolved oxygen levels which directly affects the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. Recreationally, frog-bit also affects boating and swimming.

● **Boathouses:** Boathouses are allowed on waterfront properties as an accessory to the main residential building. The builder must own the shore allowance and the construction must be designed and constructed in compliance with the Ontario Building Code. A permit is required and the current fee is \$260. The maximum size is 38 square meters. A loft may be constructed for

storage and a rooftop deck is allowed. For more information, contact the Township of North Frontenac.

● **Native Planting Suggestions:** Many cottagers are interested in plants that can enhance the water edges of their property: Suggestion:

- Wildflowers: turtlehead, wild blue flag, cardinal flower, canada anemone, and black eyed susan
- Shrubs: elderberry, pussy willow, red osier dogwood, and winterberry
- Trees: silver maple, white cedar

● **Various:** As we have experienced over the last two summers, climate change has been occurring. Mean temperatures are up, precipitation variable, drought conditions more prevalent, snow cover low, and lake water temperature have been rising. Our spring newsletter will address many of these topics with a particular focus on the Mississippi River Watershed. How vulnerable is our watershed to changes associated with warming trends? What can we do to adapt!

● **Septic Re-inspections:** North Frontenac Council has decided that property owners, who have not responded positively to participate in the voluntary septic re-inspection program, will be subject to a program of mandatory inspection. Inspectors will have the authority to order repairs or replacement of systems where necessary.

**OTHER:** Detailed information will be provided on Cottage Association organized events in our Spring Newsletter. In the meantime, you can reserve the following dates:

● **Big Gull Lake Annual Sailboat Race:** The annual sailboat race will be held this year on Sunday, August 3 (long weekend) at 2:00 pm, with the no-wind fall-back on Monday August 4. This race is for all classes of boat, all ages of sailors, and all levels of experience.

● **4th Annual Family Triathlon July 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am:** The triathlon consists of 3 events: a swim, a run/walk and a canoe/kayak, paddleboat leg. (any

type of floatation device is acceptable, as long as it is not wind powered or motorized).

● **Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Kids' Fishing Derby:** The fish derby will be held Saturday, Aug 10, 2013. You start at your own dock as early as desired and the weigh-in location will be announced. Contestants are ages 4 through 17.

● **Big Gull Lake Golf Tournament.** The Annual golf tournament will be held Aug 07, 2013 at the Blue Heron Golf Club. All classes of golfers are invited to enjoy 9 holes of golf followed by prizes and a supper.

<b>2013 Directors</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>
President	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
Vice President	Nancy Kingston	1278 Old Farm Lane	479-2533
Treasurer	Debbie Bird	1302 Marshview Dr	479-8071
Secretary	Donna Commerford	1178B Helen Lane	479-2901
Environment	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-0064
North Shore Rd	David Cox	1026A Oak Ridge Point	479-9944
Director at Large	Janet Sidey	1087 Jones Lane	479-0287

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013**

Jan 31: Newsletter and Dues Mailing

May 18: Spring Director's Meeting

June 01: Area Reps Meeting at Ken Grant's at 1000 hrs.

June 01: Distribution of Spring Newsletter and Calendars

July 27: Family Triathlon

Aug 03/04: Sailboat Races

Aug 10: Fish Derby

Aug 07: Golf Tournament

Aug 17: Director's Meeting

Aug 24: North Shore Road Meeting

Aug 31: AGM and Picnic (1030 for meeting and 1200 for picnic)

# **BIG GULL LAKE EAST END COTTAGE ASSOCIATION**

## **Dues and Fees for 2013**

1	Full membership: Annual dues and Insurance: \$30	
2	North Shore Road Maintenance Fees: Areas 2, 3,4, 5, and 6 cottage families who use the North Shore Road: \$200	
3	Associate Membership (non-cottage owners) \$10	
	Total \$ (Canadian)	

Please make cheque payable in Canadian funds no later than

Mar 31, 2013 to

### **Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association**

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_Province/State\_\_\_\_\_PC/ZIP\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone: (     )\_\_\_\_\_Cottage Phone (613) 479\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cottage #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blue Civic # ( 911) and Road Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 If any of the above information has changed in 2012, please check here:  
 (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 My/Our email address: \_\_\_\_\_

