



Newsletter Volume 37, No 1, January 2018

Message from the President:

Welcome to the 2018 cottage season. It always seems unusual writing this edition of the newsletter while sitting in snowy Ottawa. However, I know many of you are thinking about spring, summer and the upcoming cottage season.

Our past Annual General Meeting saw several changes to the Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association Board. Leaving us after two terms is our Lake Steward Lynda Corkum and I would like to thank her for all her educational articles and enthusiastic interest in the fish in Big Gull. Joining us as new Board Members are Greg Best from Area 04, Murray Finch from Area 11, and Steve Burnie from Area 12. Dave Cox, Debbie Bird, Donna Commerford, Keith Rowe and Ken Grant remain from the previous Board.

Water Quality Sampling: We introduced a new water quality sampling regime with The Water Rangers. In addition to Secchi Disc and one-time water sampling done through the sponsorship of FOCA and the Lake Partner Program, we now conduct a series of readings including dissolved Oxygen, air and surface water temperature, conductivity, and PH. You can access the information on line through <https://app.waterrangers.ca/groups/big-gull-lake-east-end-cottage-association>

The Cottage Association annual dues are owing once again, and we encourage you to fill in the dues form and return it to us. The Current Dues Sheet is attached to this newsletter.

Shoreline Planting Project: Our Cottage Association has entered into an agreement with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to enhance the shoreline on Big Gull Lake. This initiative will help to maintain the wildlife corridor, mitigate the negative effects of shoreline erosion and runoff, and introduce indigenous and native plants to our properties. Every cottage owner is invited to participate. I refer you to the package at the back of this newsletter for a description of the program, the order form, and a description of the native plants available. *Keep May 26, 2018 open for pick-up of your plants.*

Congratulations: Keith Rowe, your board member and author of the Kid's Corner was referenced in the FOCA 2017 Lake Stewards Newsletter for his work in bringing the cottage experience to our younger members—well done!

Wake Boats: I would like to mention that several cottage owners have expressed concern about the damage that can be done because of the wave action that comes from wake boats. Of concern was the effect on docks and shorelines. I am sure we can find a way to respect all types of water sport/recreation and at the same time respect individual shorelines and docks. I encourage wake boats to use open areas of the lake and if possible avoid wake boating in channels and near shorelines.

Buoy Markers/Navigation Aids: There are some cottage owners who like to have a project and mark various locations/hazards on the lake. I refer you to an excellent you tube video that describes how to build a fail-safe marker <https://youtu.be/--aFH2slQho>

BGLEECA Financial Report as of December 31, 2017

Fund Balances

General Fund:	14,465
Calendar Fund:	6,228
Environment Fund:	17,858
North Shore Road Fund:	6,381

The convenience of payment by e-Transfer has become popular with many of our members. With the cost of postage and ordering cheques from banks, cheques are not the low-cost option they once were. If you bank with RBC there may be no fees to send payments to BGLEECA's RBC account. Many other banks have lowered or waved their \$1.50 fee.

Turtle Wrangling 101

We've all seen turtles crossing the road to lay their eggs in the soft, warm gravel shoulders at the side and then return along the same dangerous path. Shortly thereafter, their eggs hatch (if predators haven't dug them up), and baby turtles then make the perilous journey back.

Sadly, many turtles don't survive the road crossing, leading to a significant diminishment in the female populations of many species, exactly during their fertile years.

We'd all like to help. But how? One obvious way is to watch out for turtle-crossing signs, and slow down. What's the rush? You're in cottage country!

The **Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre** has some good advice for moving turtles out of harm's way.

Do: Use both hands, positioned firmly at the sides of the turtle. For snapping turtles, position hands at rear of shell. For larger snapping turtles, position one hand at the rear of the shell and

the other underneath the turtle. Expect the turtle to hiss and/or scratch your hands. Always be aware of the turtle's head.

Do Not: Tap on the shell or knock it. Do not pick up a turtle that you are not comfortable holding. Never pick a turtle up by its tail.

How to help a turtle cross the road: Be aware of cars, do not attempt to help a turtle if it is not safe to do so. Always move the turtle in the direction it was going/is facing. Use a floor mat or shovel if you are uncomfortable or unable to lift the turtle.

There's even a YouTube video on how to move a turtle:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lgd_B6iKPxU

For more information: Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre @OntarioTurtleCC
OntarioTurtleCC Tel: (705)741-5000 4-1434 Chemong Rd Selwyn, ON K9J 6X2

Also, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after handling a turtle!

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

At the time of writing, the MVCA reports water levels throughout the system are normal.

The MVCA also announces a modernization of the 1946 *Conservation Authorities Act*, which empowers Conservation Authorities to “strengthen their watershed management role and have a more defined role around climate change adaptation.” This should help the authorities respond better to more frequent flooding, stressed biodiversity, reduced water levels, and other phenomena related to climate change.

For more information, see: <http://mvc.on.ca/new-conservation-authorities-act-will-help-build-stronger-environment/>

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association

FOCA (www.foca.on.ca) has several new posts with respect to the impact of climate change on lakes, including a downloadable pdf on *Managing Your Waterfront Property in a Changing Climate*.

FOCA launched “Lake Associations” in November, 2017. There is an explanatory YouTube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaKrVAaWweo&feature=youtu.be>

FOCA also offers Cottage Succession Seminars for members of FOCA-member Associations, at the following dates and locations:

- **June 3rd, 2017 – North Pigeon Lake Association event (Bobcaygeon)**
- **July 8th, 2017 – Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association event (focused on Trusts and Capital Gains)**

- July 15th, 2017 – Crane Lake Association event
- July 29th, 2017 – Jack’s Lake Association event (Apsley)
- August 26th, 2017 – Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association event (Algonquin Highlands)

Pre-register with FOCA by email and infor@foca.on.ca, or by phone 705-749-3622.

While We’re on the Subject of Succession Planning.....

Planning on staying on at the cottage, you know, after? Ontario law allows the scattering of ashes on Crown lands, and on Crown lands covered by water (i.e., the lake). For more information, contact the Funeral Information Society of Ottawa: fiso.ncf.ca. Something to talk to your loved ones about and make sure everyone’s comfortable.

Cottage Rentals

We hear all about the impact that Airbnb and other accommodation-sharing services can have, and some of it is good and some, well, not so good. Are we into this on Big Gull Lake? For some of us, this may be our best way to ensure ownership, to cover purchase costs, and to ensure that a property is occupied and maintained if we can’t get there ourselves. Let’s do it responsibly, for the sake of the lake, our properties, our guests, and good neighbour relations. FOCA has some advice on this as well: <https://foca.on.ca/responsible-cottage-rental/>

Algonquin Land Claim

For ongoing and updated information, see: <http://www.algonquinlandclaim.ca/>

News from North Frontenac Township

North Frontenac enacted new tipping fees as of August 2017, for large items such as mattresses and appliances. See: www.northfrontenac.com or call 613-479-2231 or 1-800-234-3953.

From the Editor

Your Newsletter would like to hear from you!

There are lots of topics of great interest at Big Gull Lake. If you would like to tackle any of the following, let me know, and I’ll look forward to your contributions.

- History at BGL: mining (there are rumoured to be the remains of silver mines, possibly on Long Island, or on the southeastern shore); walks and rambles around the lake and nearby; family histories and anecdotes; archival sources, etc.
- Local/municipal events (North Frontenac Township; Frontenac County, Perth, neighbouring villages), etc.;
- Updates on the Algonquin Land Claim;

- Environmental: septic inspection, status of the “Dark Skies” proposal, windmills, etc.
- Science: natural shoreline maintenance (discourage lawns and fertilizers, impact of climate change, happenings in the Watershed; the plan to replace/upgrade dams in the system; report on the delicate balancing act trying to maintain water flow throughout the Mississippi River Watershed, why logs are put in the dam and why they are removed, when does MVCA put in logs to raise the water levels, how often are all the dams in the system monitored, why is there a risk related to installing permanent docks, what is the status of MNR approvals for dock building, etc.

Our Website

We are continually reviewing material to be posted on the BGLEECA Website and encourage all members to visit the site regularly (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.

Info you need to share the BGLEECA Facebook and Twitter.

1) People can follow @bgleeca on Twitter, also available through this link <https://twitter.com/bgleeca>

and they can search "Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association" on Facebook, available through this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/632152196980131/>

2) Attached are QR codes that are hyperlinks to the Facebook and Twitter accounts. They are intended as something to be added to an email signature.





KIDS FISHING DERBY SATURDAY AUGUST 5TH

Getting our registration connected to our **BGLEECA website** was handled by Kathryn Erickson, we had 33 kids register on line by Saturday morning. Janet Sidey provided the organizers with a fabulous summary of all the participants in order by age, which was extremely helpful. Fish cleaning station was handled by a team of expert anglers. Bill Kuepfer, Bill Phyper, Ken Grant, Dave Toole, who did an amazing job keeping up with the large amount of fish coming in from the kids. Grill Masters, cooking fish and hot dogs were Jim Commerford, Hannah and Reid Rowe-Young, Rikki and Tim Rowe

Registration Team, Donna Commerford, Virginia Grant and Lynda Corkum who handled photography. This was a big job, as each child received a participation certificate along some goodies from FOCA. Weigh in Team, Shean Goonetilleke and Keith Rowe handled that task.

CATEGORY WINNERS...

Largest Fish: Johnathan Barlin
Under 5 yrs: Lucas Kingston
6 – 8 years: Ben Tomblin
9 – 11 years: Quinn Parker
12 – 14 years: Michaela (Ava) Shaw
15 – 17 years: Adam Shrock

Sponsor: Rapala Canada, Normark Group, Mark Vanbeek and Jessica Stroud, donated banners, hats, stickers, sunglasses, plyers and some tackle. The company also provided a huge discount on our purchases of fishing rods for category winners. Rapala also authorized the use of their registered trademark fishing lure to be used in our participation certificates. Thank you for being so generous with your time and donations!

Sponsor: FOCA, Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations, through the efforts of Lynda Corkum, provided every child a bright orange T-Shirt with a message about invasive species in freshwater lakes in Ontario. FOCA is attempting to educate younger anglers about harmful fish and mussels getting into fresh water lakes in the province. Lynda also provided the group with a presentation on how to identify some of the species which need to be eradicated.

Sponsor: MP Scott Reid, Frontenac, Lanark, Addington, who sent us Canada Flags and stickers

Sponsor: MP Kim Rudd, Northumberland, who also sent along flags and Canada 150 pins and stickers

Sponsor: MMP Lou Renaldi, Northumberland, who sent us Ontario 150 bunting, flags and stickers

MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR 2018!

In order for this worthwhile event to continue, parents of children participating are being asked to volunteer a few hours with set up the day prior and most importantly the day of the event. It only makes sense that those people benefiting from the event be included with work involved presenting it.

The cottage association board of directors and family are asking for our Big Gull community to volunteer and get involved next year to make our summer events in 2018 even better.

If you would like to volunteer and meet a few more people around the lake, email

[Keith \[icsnews@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:icsnews@hotmail.com\)](mailto:Keith_icsnews@hotmail.com)



10th Annual Family Triathlon
July 28nd, 2018
10:00 a.m.

This event is a family friendly, participatory triathlon. You may enter as an individual (using a kayak) or as a team (using a canoe). Teams may be comprised of any number of individuals, and any member(s) can complete any part of the event.

Individuals and families of all ages are welcome, but we ask that parents accompany younger children.

Each team will predict how long it will take their entire team to complete the course. The team closest to their predicted time wins. It does not matter how slow or fast you complete the course, you just need to complete the race in your predicted time. **Of course, we ask that watches or timing devices will not be worn during the event.**

Appropriate signage related to this event will be placed on BGLEECA bulletin boards. Teams can register by email or by phone at:

- Nancy Gibson at nancyinsaudi@yahoo.com (613 479 - 2728)
- Donna Commerford at donna.commerford@sympatico.ca (613 479-2901)

Please state the name of your team, including each participant and your estimated time of completion. Team check-in will take place @ the Gibson's cottage on Helen Lane on the day of the triathlon.

The triathlon will consist 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).

Come out and enjoy the fun.

2018 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
Environment	Ken Grant	1054A East Belcham	479-2743
North Shore Rd	David Cox	1050 Oak Ridge Point	479-9944
Director at Large	Keith Rowe	1122 Helen Lane	479-2238
Director at Large	Murray Finch	1002 Zimmer Lane	479-2265
Director at Large	Greg Best	1036A&B Lowry Lane	479-2059
Director at Large	Steve Burnie	1086C Colman Lane	479-2853

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

Shoreline Planting Project:

1. Description of Project:



Big Gull Lake Shoreline Planting Project

Waterfront properties are highly valued by people for a variety of reasons ranging from the access they provide for recreational opportunities, to the prime locations they are for rest and relaxation. These shoreline areas are also very important to both wildlife and lake water quality. Loss of vegetation along the shoreline degrades wildlife habitat, increases erosion, can reduce water clarity, and cause an increase in nutrient input into the lake. Planting native trees and shrubs along the shoreline provides valuable wildlife habitat and helps control shoreline erosion, while also acting as a filter for pollutants and nutrients entering the lake through rain water runoff.

In partnership with the Lake Association, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) would like to help Big Gull Lake landowners add plants to their properties by providing trees and shrubs for **FREE**. Landowners must be on Big Gull Lake, orders must be 15 or less plants and, the plants must be planted within 45m of the lake. If a landowner is interested in planting more than 15 plants they should contact Kelly Stiles (kstiles@mvc.on.ca) for more information on our shoreline planting program and planting assistance.

Important Plant Information

- Please fill out the attached plant order sheet and submit it to Kelly Stiles (kstiles@mvc.on.ca) by February 23, 2018.
- Plants pre-ordered will be available for pick up on Saturday May 26, 2018 from 10:00 to 1:00 at Ken Grant's Cottage. (1054A East Belcham Road)
- We understand that not everyone may not be at their cottages (and therefore able to pick up their plants) on this date. If so please let me know and your plants will be stored at Ken's for you to pick up at a later date.
- Please contact Kelly Stiles (kstiles@mvc.on.ca) if you wish to pick your plants up at the office in Carleton Place instead.
- All plants will be bare root stock (between 24"-36" tall with no soil on roots, packaged in bags) or in 1 gallon pots (between 24"-36" tall in 1 gallon pot filled with soil).
- Bare root stock should be planted as soon as possible after being picked up and kept in a cool shady area until planted. Potted stock can be kept unplanted for up to two weeks as long as they are watered daily.

Please contact Kelly Stiles (kstiles@mvc.on.ca , 613-253-0006 ext. 234 if you have any questions about shoreline planting.

2. Plants available:

NANNYBERRY



Scientific Name
Viburnum lentago

Height/Width
2m

Soil
Poor to well drained
Dry to moist. Sand, loam, clay

Sun/Shade
Sun to shade

Fruit/Flower
Creamy-white pleasant smelling flowers in late May, early June.
Bluish-black berry like drupes which mature and drop in August-September.
The fruit is edible and can be used to make jams and jellies

Growth Characteristics
Hardy, fast-growing, reddish winter twigs, deep roots

Other Notes
Riverbanks, woods edges, roadsides



RED MAPLE

Scientific Name
Acer rubrum

Height/Width
20-25m tall

Soil
Grows best in moist soil, but can tolerate different moisture levels.
Grows in a variety of soils.
Sandy to clay soils

Sun/Shade
Full sun to partial shade

Fruit/Flower
Has pairs of winged keys (1.5-2.5 cm long) that float down from the tree's branches in the early summer.
Reddish short-stalked flowers in late winter

Growth Characteristics
Grows quickly, lives 75-100 years, leaves turn red in fall.
The red maple is a tall, straight tree in the forest, but in the open it tends to divide its main stem several times, often making it susceptible to breaking later in life.
This is a good, fast-growing shade tree, but pruning and maintenance may be needed to keep its form strong if it is shading your house.
Its roots are shallow, but they can spread widely, so make sure you plant your red maple where it will have room to grow

Other Notes
Easy to recognize the red maple in the autumn when its leaves turn a beautiful bright red



AMERICAN Highbush Cranberry



Scientific Name

Viburnum trilobium

Height/Width

Up to 4m tall

Soil

Poor to well drained

Moist to wet soils

Longest lasting on moist well-drained soils.

Prefers loam soils, also found in peat soils

Sun/Shade

Sun to part shade

Fruit/Flowers

White flowers in late June-July.

Red-orange berry like drupes which mature in August-September

Growth Characteristic

Excellent for erosion control

Other Notes

Attractive to many forms of wildlife.

Their berries make an excellent winter survival food

BEBB'S WILLOW



Scientific Name

Salix bebbiana

Height/Width

3m tall

Soil

Adaptable to wide variety of soil textures

Prefers moist sites; drought tolerant

Tolerable of moderate alkaline soils but not extremely alkaline conditions

Sun/Shade

Shade intolerant; grows best in full sun

Fruit/Flowers

Flowers borne on catkins 2 – 4 cm long

Growth Characteristics

Large multi-stemmed shrub or small tree, with spreading branches, elliptical shaped leaves 2.5 – 9 cm long

Other Notes

Bebb willow is a fast growing but short-lived species that occurs most commonly under shade of trees where the sites are poor. It is frequently found in swamps, lakes, borders of streams, open woods and forests. Bebb willow is a relatively good soil stabilizer and is valuable for re-vegetating stream banks and other disturbed sites. Snowshoe hares, deer, elk and moose browse Bebb willow. The buds, shoot and catkins are eaten by birds, beavers and small mammals.



BLACK SPRUCE

Scientific Name

Picea mariana

Height/Width

Up to 20m tall

Soil

Tolerates different moisture levels.

Grows in a variety of soils; grows well in moist soils

Sun/Shade

Grows well in a variety of light conditions.

Tolerates partial shade



Fruit/Flowers

Black spruce cones are egg shaped, 2 to 3 cm long, and are dark brown.

They are found at the top of the tree and may stay on the tree for up to 30 years

Growth Characteristics

Slow growing and spire like. Short evergreen needles.

Adaptable tree

CHOKECHERRY



Scientific Name

Prunus virginiana

Height/Width

Up to 9m tall

Soil

Moist to average soils.

Prefers rich, well-drained soils

Sun/Shade

Prefers full sun but will tolerate light shade

Fruit/Flower

Chokecherry is most noticeable in flower, with many dense, white elongated clusters of 5-petaled flowers.

If pollinated, these become clusters of round shiny fruits, varying from yellow to red or almost black.

Fruits for bird food and jelly

Growth Characteristics

It may be a small shrub in the far north but can become a small tree in southern Ontario.

The leaves are broadly oval with a short tip and finely toothed.

The bark is dark grayish-brown, becoming almost black with age



NINEBARK



Scientific Name

Physocarpus opulifolius

Height/Width

2.5-3m tall

Soil

Tolerates a wide variety of moisture conditions and soil types

Sandy, loam, clay

Sun/Shade

Full sun

Fruit/Flower

Corymbs of white flowers in late spring-early summer

Dried reddish brown capsules cling to plant throughout the winter

Growth Characteristics

Bark shreds and peels revealing different colours

Other Notes

Medium to fast growth rate

Spring flowers are also attractive nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators



3. Order Information:

Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
Property Address _____

Plant	Number
American Highbush Cranberry	
Bebb's Willow	
Black Spruce	
Chokecherry	
Nannyberry	
Ninebark	
Red Maple	
Red-Osier Dogwood	
White Pine	
Total Plants*	
* Total not to exceed 15 plants	

Please fill in the contact information above and the number of plants of each species you would like. Send the completed form as an attachment in an email to Kelly Stiles, kstiles@mvc.on.ca.

Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association

Dues and Fees 2018

Full Membership Annual Dues: \$30 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
Associate Membership (Non-cottage owners): \$10 To stay connected with newsletters.	\$10
North Shore Road Maintenance Fees: \$200 For cottages on: Belcham Lane East & West, Bell Lane, Lowry Lane, Hanbidge Lane, Marsh View Drive and Oak Ridge Point.	\$200
Total (Canadian Funds only please)	

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 pay by April 30.

Please make cheque payable to: **BGLEECA**

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

Pay by e-transfer through online banking to Debbie Bird - bgleeca@icloud.com

Your personal information is collected for the sole purpose of communication within our cottage association, and will not be shared with third parties.

www.bgleeca.ca

613-692-1051

bgleeca@icloud.com