



FIMLA Newsletter

fimla@live.ca

www.fimla.org



Fourteen Island Lake Dam Report

One of the most important recommendations resulting from our Fourteen Island and Mink Lake Stewardship Plan was to monitor and maintain the two dams in the FIMLA system and undertake repairs as needed. A recent assessment indicates a need for remedial maintenance to ensure the longer term structural integrity of the dam protecting water levels on Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes.

Dam failure would result, not only in our inability to use and enjoy the lakes, but also in serious environmental consequences for both lakes.

In response to this recommendation we have had an engineer from Quinte Conservation Authority conduct an on-site inspection of this dam and they have

provided a detailed inspection report. To view the complete report and all the pictures please visit our FIMLA website.

Although the dam's structural integrity is still intact there is significant concrete deterioration on many areas of the dam and some leakage is evident on the stream side. ▶

Contents

- Dam report
- Wildlife Around our Lakes
- Message from the President
- Executive Contact Details/2012 AGM
- Water Testing Report 2011
- Lake Steward's Report Spring 2012
- Willy's Lane Boat Launch Dates
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program
- High Speed Internet in Eastern Ontario
- George E Storms - In Memoriam
- Little John Lake Fish Survey Results
- MNR Black Ratsnake Regulation Letter
- Castor Canadensis
- Hinchinbrooke Road, Old and New



Wildlife Around our Lakes

Left is a picture of a barred owl snapped by Stu St. John. Below are dramatic images of some of the creatures you might encounter if you go out into the woods tonight; a fox, black bear and magnificent stag caught on Dave Babcock's field camera.

Do you have observations or photos of local wildlife to add to our species list?

You can view the species list at www.FIMLA.org/species_list.html

Please send details and photos to: FIMLA@live.ca





Message from the President

This hasn't been much of a winter for fun on the lake. It was another one of those years when we had open water at Christmas, and when it finally did freeze, the temperature was up and down like the proverbial outhouse seat.

There are a few of us who really love the lake in winter, even a few like Barb and I who would rather snowshoe or ski the lake on a sunny, crisp January day than be sitting on a beach in a Caribbean resort. Needless to say, with the exception of a few days in February, we did not have a good winter.

One of our regular visitors has been a bald eagle who likes to fly the shoreline of the lake first thing every morning – majestic! Our not-so-regular visitor this winter was a black bear, who was out of his/her den in January and wandering the shoreline of Fourteen Island Lake. This was not normal black bear behaviour, but with the warm temperatures, he/she can be forgiven for being confused about the seasons. One other note on wildlife – MNR has proposed a habitat regulation to protect the habitat of the black ratsnake (now known as the eastern grey ratsnake). As many of you will know, I am a big supporter of these snakes, and we need to do all we can to protect them. But the approach proposed by MNR was somewhat draconian and would have a negative effect on many of us as we go about our daily lives. So, with the approval of the FIMLA executive, I wrote a letter to MNR suggesting that their regulation was not the right way to protect these snakes. A copy of the letter can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

You will note throughout the newsletter a number of things that are going on that follow the directions in our lake plan's Action Plan (water sampling, dam repair, fisheries work). We continue to plug away at those things, and I want to sincerely thank all of you who are volunteering to take on the tasks.

Included in this newsletter is a brief memorial to George Storms, who passed away suddenly last fall. The Storms family have been coming to Fourteen Island Lake from upstate New York since the 30's, making them some of the longest-standing cottagers on the lake. Our deepest condolences go to George's family.

I look forward to seeing many of you on your return to the lake this spring and summer, and at the AGM, which is scheduled to be "back on the lake" at the new home of Leslie and Walter Natynczyk, who have graciously offered to host the AGM on August 5.

Gord

**Please feel free
to contact your
executive:**

President:

Gord Rodgers
gordrodgers@xplornet.com
613-374-3521

Vice President:

Brett Dark
brettandlory.dark@sympatico.ca
613-374-1789

Past President:

Anne Tucker
ethela@sympatico.ca
613-966-7153

Secretary/Treasurer:

Elaine St. John
elaine3037@gmail.com
613-374-1276

Lake Steward:

Peter Peart
peter_peart@hotmail.com
613-389-5633

Feeder Lakes Rep:

Peter Bedoukian
peter.bedoukian@gmail.com
613-985-1205

Communications Director:

Robert Powell
rob_powell@msn.com
613-374-3800

FIMLA AGM

Summer 2012

To be held on:

**Sunday, August 5th, 2012
from 1:30 - 4:00 pm**

Hosted by:

**Walt & Leslie Natynczyk at
1050 Little Deer Lane**

Fourteen Island Lake Dam (cont'd.)



▲ Upstream view of the Fourteen Island Lake dam.

The pictures reproduced from the report (shown right) represent a small example of the concrete deterioration.

There is extensive concrete and rebar work required in numerous areas including the sluice. The dam was repaired approximately fifteen years ago but at that time only clay was packed on the lake side walls of the dam.

A number of construction companies were called to undertake site visits and prepare repair estimates. These estimates ranged from twenty to fifty thousand dollars depending on the extent of repair and the company. We believe we can ensure the structural integrity of the dam for decades to come for approximately twenty thousand dollars.

We are a small lake association and this represents a significant challenge. It is hoped that by partnering with many of the environmental stakeholders that we have worked with over past years such as Quinte Conservation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and South Frontenac Township that we can make this project much more manageable.

To this end we have written all of these agencies and asked for a financial contribution of three to five thousand dollars. This would match the approximately five thousand dollars your lake association has already budgeted and

put aside for this endeavour.

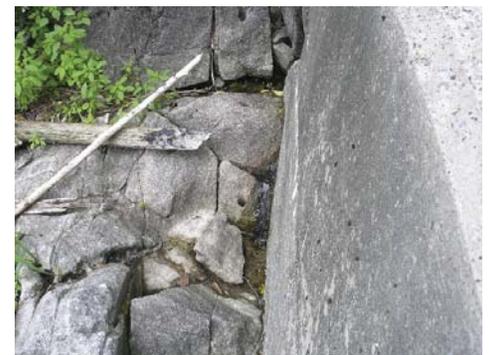
We hope the response to our requests will be positive but in these times of government cut backs we may not acquire all of the additional fifteen thousand dollars required to complete this project. If this is the case we will have to phase in the repairs and consider requesting all lake property owners on Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes to pay a one time dam repair fee, the amount to be based on partnership support received.

We are hoping to have all this information by our August annual general meeting and have the direction approved at that time. Repairs to the dam are scheduled for late September and October.

It's important to realize that the financial consequences of rebuilding a failed dam are significantly more than a timely repair and would be an extremely onerous burden for our small association. It is for these reasons we hope you can throw your full support behind this project even if a one time fee is required. ■



▲ View of right sluiceway showing vertical crack at joint.



▲ View showing leakage through right abutment and rock interface.



▲ View of log bay showing concrete deterioration of left abutment.



▲ View of left abutment showing void in concrete.

Water Testing Results 2011

We are pleased to announce that after analyzing the 2011 water sampling data that both the water clarity and phosphorous levels are well within the acceptable norms for the trophic state associated with each of our lakes.

Test results have remained stable for the lakes over the past three years and where the data is available have shown a slight improvement since the 1970s. It is not uncommon for a phosphorous count to double between the P1 and P2 sample collected at the same time and same site in any given year. This result is called an outlier and we experienced one on Fourteen Island Lake in 2010.

The Lake Partner Program was kind enough to provide a three year comparison of the phosphorous levels in our lakes to graphically show that stability (see graphs).

Given how stable our results have been over the past 3 years and in some cases 30 plus years it can be safely concluded that the aquatic environment within our lakes is not showing any signs of deterioration.

On behalf of FIMLA Lake Association members I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our water testing volunteers for their efforts over the last three years.

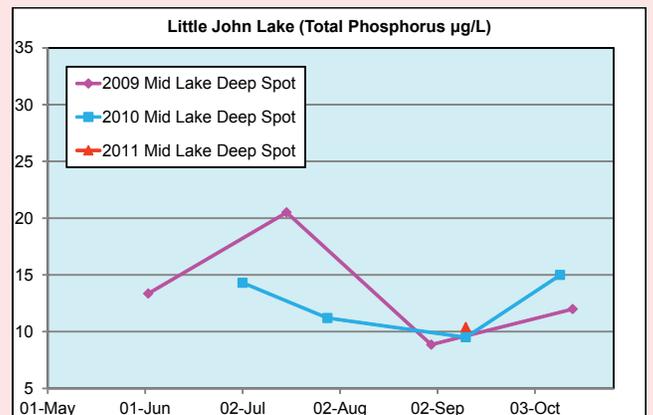
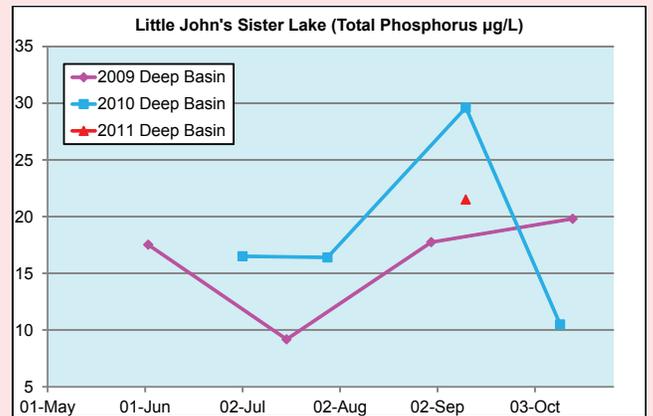
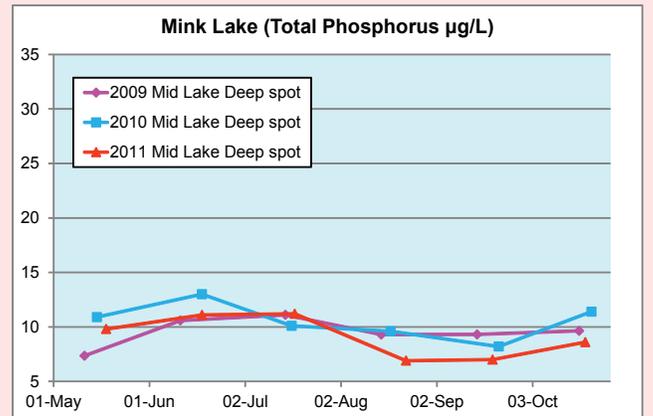
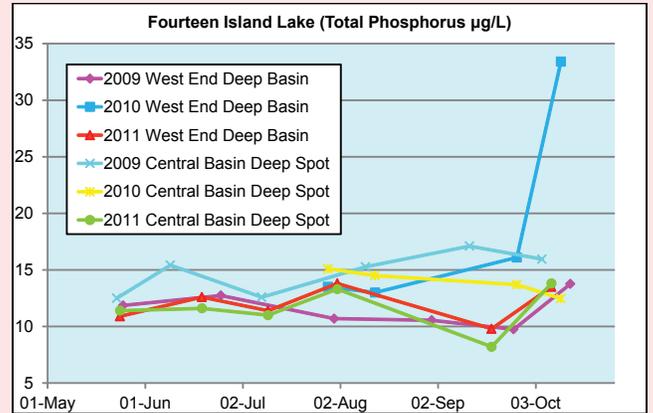
Brett Dark

The Lake Partner Program

The Lake Partner Program is a province-wide, volunteer-based, water quality monitoring program. The sampling program allows for early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or clarity of the water of Ontario lakes. The program is a FOCA partnership with the Ministry of Environment.

Figure 1. Water Quality Table (2011 Update)

Measure	Water Clarity (Secchi disk depth)				Phosphorous			
	1975-2008	2009	2010	2011	1975-2008	2009	2010	2011
Fourteen Island Lake	5.8 m	5.9 m	6.9 m	7.3 m	15.5 µg/L	12.6 µg/L	14.4 µg/L	11.7 µg/L
Mink Lake	-	5.0 m	6.1 m	4.7 m	-	9.45 µg/L	10.45 µg/L	9.1 µg/L
Little John Lake	-	4.4 m	4.3 m	4.3 m	*18.4 µg/L	13.7 µg/L	12.5 µg/L	12.5 µg/L
Little-John's Sister Lake	-	*2.3 m	2.7 m	2.7 m	*32 µg/L	13.7 µg/L	14.5 µg/L	14.5 µg/L
Buffy Lake	-	*2.8 m	2.5 m	2.5 m	-	21.8 µg/L	22.5 µg/L	22.5 µg/L
Comments	*These lakes have naturally darker, "tea-stained" water.				*One year only, 1985 15 mg/l considered threshold level for phosphorous			



Lake Steward's Report Spring 2012

"It is a truth universally acknowledged," mused Jane Austen, "that all fishermen are liars." Alright, she did not write the second part of that sentence, but it is a customary caution to receive the reports of fishing successes with an "I'm from Missouri attitude".

Yet photographs and eye-witness viewings can turn a skeptic into a believer. So it is with some pleasure that I can report that the state of our fishery is good, and verging on the "very good".

Both Dave Babcock and Art Brewer found that although fish were not actually jumping into their boats, the numbers caught were very encouraging. Dave usually fishes for walleye and releases most of them. This past season his catch included a wide spectrum of lengths and weights with some in the four to six pound range.

Even more positive was the appearance of a fair number of small walleye in the eight inch region. This indicates that as stocking has not occurred for a number of years, that natural spawning and regeneration is taking place. The recently renewed stream flowing out of Cranbury Lake and into Fourteen Island cannot be credited for this as too little time has elapsed to observe any results.

Eight-years-old Jack Storms, a future



▲ Jane Austen, 18th C. novelist who wrote 'Northanger Abbey' and other classics.

Lake Steward, hauled in a lot of bass, his target of choice. The highlight was a five and a half pound small mouth bass. Jack reports that there is an abundance of bass in our lake.

His observations are confirmed by the reports of the fisherfolks who rented at Isabel MacLeod's cottages. Isabel had distributed a basic creel survey form that I had put together and many of her renters took the time to keep track of the fish that they caught (and a number

noted that they too, like Dave, Art and Jack, released most or all of the catch).

One ardent fisherman, commenting on the pike situation, said that pike were as plentiful as perch. That may be a bit of a stretch but there is no question that there are a bunch of them. The reports available cite fish up to seven plus pounds and 40 inches in length. It's reassuring for us swimmers to note that these monsters want nothing to do with us.

It would be a huge help if those of you who do wet a line were to keep a basic record of fish caught, length and weight. This would include all those caught even the ones released. Even an anecdotal report would be of great value in our ongoing monitoring of the fishery.

If you would like to help us by completing a basic creel survey form please contact FIMLA at FIMLA@live.ca

Peter Peart

Willy's Lane Boat Launch Dates

The following dates have been agreed for the 2012 season:

Opening: Friday, April 20 to Sunday, May 28

Closing: Saturday, Sept 15 to Monday, Oct 8

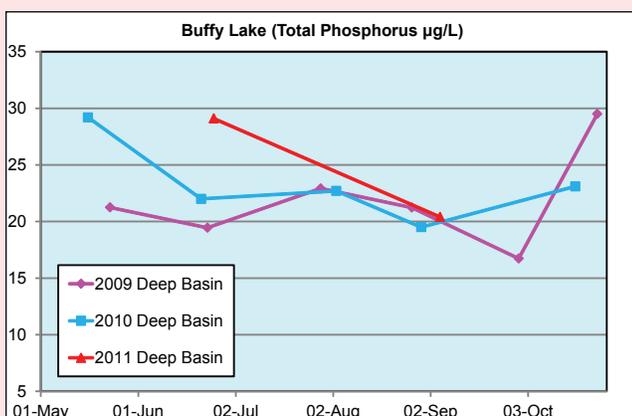
Please note:

Permission only applies to paid-up FIMLA members for 2011-12.

Gates will be locked outside these dates. If you have an emergency and must take a boat in or out when the gates are locked please contact one of the executive members of FIMLA and arrangements will be made.

Also, we remind those of you who use the launch that a voluntary donation to the Willy's Lane Road Association (\$10 or \$15) would be appreciated.

Water Testing Results (cont'd.)



◀ Graphs showing comparative three year overall average levels of total phosphorus (µg/L) for each of the five lakes in the FIMLA sub watershed.



EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK

Further, Faster: Improving High Speed Broadband in Eastern Ontario



FURTHER...FASTER

Broadband is coming to Eastern Ontario with the help of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (www.eowc.org) and the support of federal, provincial and municipal funding, as well as the private sector.

Enabling high-speed internet access will improve the quality of life of our residents and support innovation and economic growth. This is a desperately needed investment. Our region has lost thousands of jobs in traditional industries such as manufacturing, service and forestry over the past five years and some 300,000 homes and businesses have little or no internet access.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Net-

work, or EORN, aims to bring higher speeds and bandwidth to at least 95% of homes and businesses in Eastern Ontario, a majority of which will see up to 10 Mbps.

EORN Coverage Area

Area is:

- Larger than 109 other countries in the world
- 9 times the size of PEI
- Greater than Vancouver Island
- Equal to Nova Scotia
- 50,000 square kilometres
- Home to 6 First Nations

Project Cost \$170m

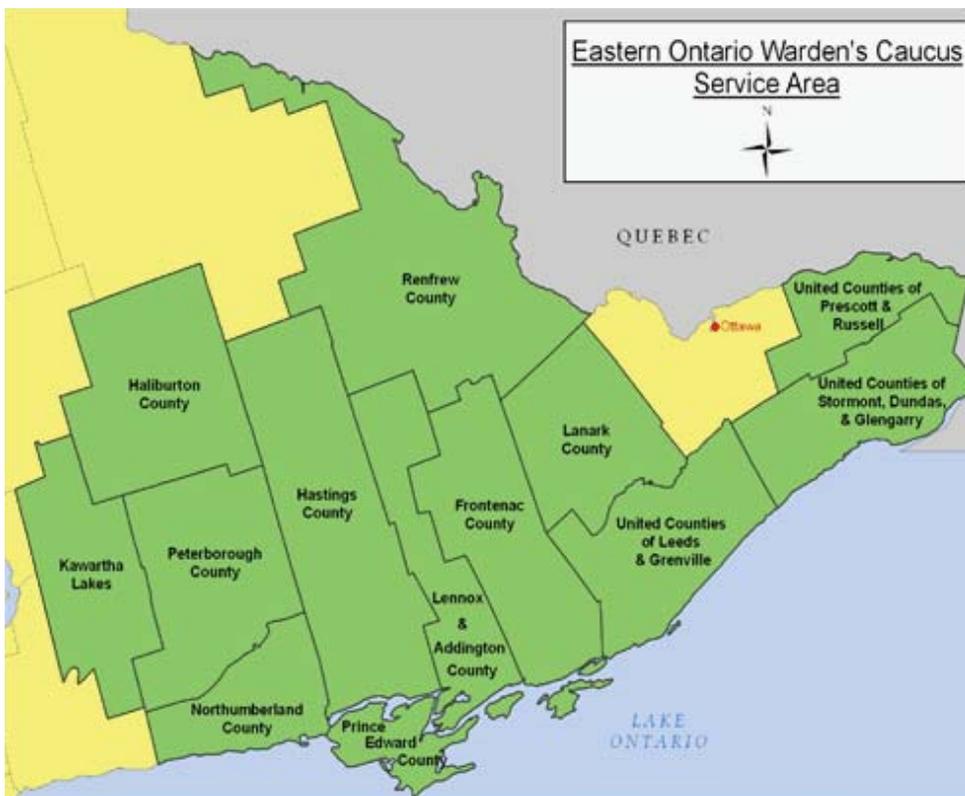
This multi-year, \$170 million project has three main components:

- **Backbone:** A scalable network of wireless towers, optical fibre and high-speed switches that will involve about 500 km of new optical fibre and create 160 new "access points."
- **Access:** High speed links connect users, such as businesses and residents, to the network at the most affordable rates we can achieve. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will bid on the opportunity to provide services and they will receive funding to assist in improving and adding the costly infrastructure that's needed.
- **Satellite:** To ensure that no one is left behind, satellite access is being provided for those areas that cannot be reached by wireless or fibre networks, either because the terrain is too difficult or because the population is too sparse.

The Project will cover the more than 50,000 square kilometers that make up Eastern Ontario, an area larger than 109 countries around the world. At the time of its launch, EORN was the largest broadband project underway in Canada.

"We have been heartened by the tremendous response to our project by citizens and businesses across Eastern Ontario and we owe a real thank you to both the Federal and Provincial governments for supporting our efforts," said J. Murray Jones Chair of the EOWC and warden of Peterborough County.

Bell and Bell Aliant, working together, with the EOWC began work to build the essential optical fibre backbone of the network in September 2010. ▶



They were selected through a competitive bidding process in which they offered a robust, scalable design within the anticipated budget.

The EOWC team has also been preparing and issuing Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the “last mile access” component of the project. Four of seven RFPs have been issued to the private sector and by the end of this August; all of the RFPs will have been issued.

“For cottagers and permanent residents alike in FIMLA the target for improved access via the project is fall of 2012, although with some luck it could be sooner”, said Jim Pine the Project’s Co-lead and long time member of the Lake Association.

EORN Complete Project Schedule	
EORN Zone* Names	Expected Service Availability to Household
Embrun	Available now
Quinte- Loyalist	Fall 2012
Northumberland Highlands, South Nation	Fall 2012
Haliburton, Kawartha	Summer 2013
Ottawa Valley North Ottawa Valley South	Fall 2013
Lanark, SD&G, Dorset Seabright	Fall 2013
Hastings North Thousand Islands	Spring 2013

▲ A complete project schedule is set out in the table above.

Access to the internet for some residents and businesses located in sparsely populated areas will be via satellite. This past January, the EOWC and Barrett Xplore Inc. jointly announced a new partnership to bring better access to satellite services at reduced costs. EOWC has negotiated packages that can offer savings of \$1,999.00 on a three-year contract for speeds of up to 1.5Mbps. Barrett Xplore is also investing heavily in improving the quality of

satellite service. The technology used to deliver satellite service is steadily moving toward the same speed as wired and wireless options, for comparable rates.

To view maps of the EORN zones, please visit:

www.eorn.ca and go to “Maps and Schedules.” This map also identifies satellite zones.

For more information contact:

Lisa Severson – Communications & Stakeholder Relations Officer:
seversonl@eorn.ca

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Jim Pine, Project Co-lead of the Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network (EORN) and neighbour on Fourteen Island Lake.

The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

For anyone who has a minimum of 4 hectares (9.88 acres), exclusive of your residence, and is a Canadian citizen, you can benefit from the MFTIP program, whereby you prepare a plan to manage your property and you receive a tax rebate on your property taxes. The following link provides more details: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/Publication/MNR_E000245P.html

In addition, a workshop is planned for April 14th, at the Sharbot Lake office of North Frontenac Telephone, jointly sponsored by the Frontenac Stewardship Council and the Ontario Woodlot Owners Association.

In Memoriam

George E. Storms, 64, of 37230 Route 3, died Saturday October 15, 2011 after being stricken while hunting at his camp in Degrasse, NY.

Born January 6, 1947, in Watertown, the son of the late Secord and Mary O'Brien Storms, he was an avid woodworker and he loved spending time with his family at the family cottage on Fourteen Island Lake in Verona, Ontario.

George’s late Grandfather (George) started coming to the Island in the 1930’s. Throughout the 64 years that George spent on 14 Island Lake he had seen many changes to the lake and had been a major part of making Storms’ Island what it is today.

Of his many favorite past times on the lake were fishing, doing Saturday morning projects and playing horse-shoes on the Island and at the Babcock’s annual tournaments. He loved taking his grandchildren for boat rides, fishing, and watching them learn to swim and enjoy camp.

Surviving are his wife, Gloria H., Carthage; two sons and their wives, Scott and Stephanie Storms, Morrisonville, and Mark and Shannon Storms, Carthage; five grandchildren, Olivia, Jack, Connor, Thomas and Sara.



Little John Lake Fish Survey

A summary of the Broad Scale Monitoring carried out in 2010 by the Ministry of Natural Resources has recently been made available. Little John Lake was selected to represent lakes 20-100 hectares in size within the department's local fisheries management zone #18. The survey is part of a five-year program to provide a state of the resources report for the zone.

The study employed 'large mesh' gill nets that target fish larger than 20 cm in length, the size range of interest to anglers, and small mesh gill nets that target smaller fish, the size range of interest to large fish. 104 fish were caught in large mesh nets and 197 were caught in small mesh nets.

Eight species of fish were captured during the assessment. The chart right (Figure 1.) shows the percentage of each fish species caught, with yellow perch predominating by an overwhelming margin. A breakdown of largemouth bass size distribution (Figure 2.) shows 70% of the catch to have been just 10 centimetres in length.

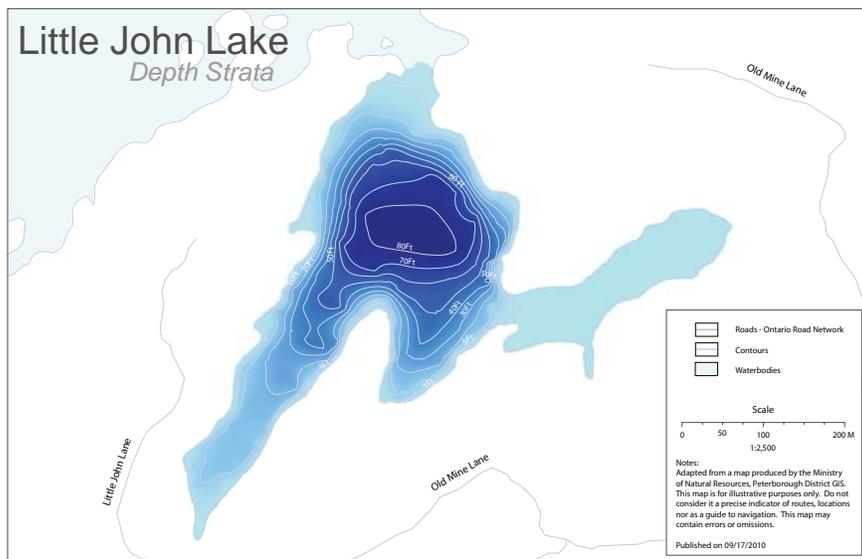
Other findings include water chemistry sampling results and temperature and oxygen results recorded on Little John Lake. A water clarity Secchi disk reading of six metres was measured at the centre of the lake.

The summary also includes a depth strata map of the lake (see below) generated from updated bathymetry data, showing a maximum depth of 25.2 metres (82.6 ft) at the centre of Little John Lake.

Perhaps the most unwelcome finding was the presence of zebra mussel veligers found in the plankton haul results. A veliger is the final larval stage of the mollusc, having two ciliated flaps for swimming and feeding.

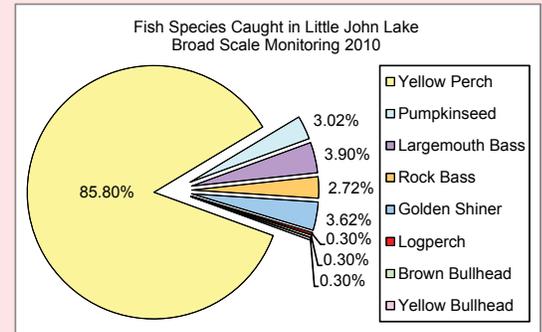
REMEMBER the only defence we have against the spread of zebra mussels is to restrict their movement between waterbodies. Once they become established in a lake, there is no known way to eradicate them. Please make sure you are not spreading our zebra mussels to other lakes by inspecting your boat, trailer, boating equipment, fishing tackle and nets and removing any visible plants or animals before transporting to another waterbody.

For more information see: www.invasivespecies.com



▲ Depth strata map of Little John Lake.

▼ Figure 1.



▼ Figure 2.



The report is a summary of sampling only and is not intended to provide a state of the resource report. This will be produced when a full cycle of assessments for the FMZs have been carried out. To view the full summary report please visit the FIMLA website at: www.FIMLA.org

FIMLA Membership

Mailed with this newsletter is a reminder to renew your annual subscription to FIMLA, or join us if you are not already a member. Look out for the form sent with this newsletter or download a membership application or renewal form at: www.FIMLA.org/membership.html

Membership is open to everyone living on Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes, and Buffy, Little John and Little John's Sister feeder Lakes. Help us to continue the work of the Association to preserve and enhance the special character and scenic beauty of our lakes.

**Annual membership is just \$25.
Please make cheques out to "FIMLA".**

Mr. Glenn Desy

Species at Risk Habitat Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street, 2nd Floor S
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

FIMLA response to MNR black ratsnake regulation proposals

Subject: Proposed Regulation under Ontario Endangered Species Act: Grey Rat Snake

Our lake association has always done what we can to protect the environment of our lake and its surrounding land base. We prepared a watershed-based lake plan, and have set, through the plan, a series of action items to provide stewardship to the water, land, and associated flora and fauna. One of the species of interest is the Grey Rat Snake which has been the subject of discussion at our AGMs, and for which we have routinely distributed literature to improve understanding throughout the watershed. Our approach has always been to inform and to increase awareness of the landowners and our experience has shown that people respond. We have substantial interest in protecting all our species (including our species at risk), and we have people prepared to participate in monitoring programs as well as habitat improvement projects.

The proposed regulation related to habitat protection for the Grey Rat Snake recently came to my attention. Given that the habitat of this species is ubiquitous across our township, a habitat regulation would seem to be a bit like killing a mosquito with a sledgehammer. In fact, this regulation is likely to do more harm than good to protect this species. It's our understanding that, while the Grey Rat Snake is considered a threatened species in the province, its status in South Frontenac Township is quite robust – most residents will ask, "Is there any practical need to protect its habitat in Frontenac County?"

Landowners here co-exist with Grey Rat Snakes, who habituate developed areas of the county, live in our sheds, attics, and hunt and reproduce directly in the midst of our (sparsely) developed rural areas. Many organizations have worked hard to inform the public about the interesting features of the Grey Rat Snake, how they are a harmless species, and that their presence should be considered a positive thing. In our interaction with the public, we've found that there is real receptivity to our message – landowners, for the most part, want to protect this snake. They will stop on the roadways and move a snake if they are given a bit more information, and they will refrain from harming the snakes that show up near their homes or cottages. But a heavy-handed regulation is going to have the opposite approach. Landowners will no longer want to report sightings to MNR, for fear of severe restriction on the use of their properties. Any perceived benefits of the Endangered Species Act will be lost on the average rural resident.

When we live in an area where the habitat of this species is everywhere around us, habitat regulation will not work. Education and awareness programs will protect the population of Grey Rat Snake, not habitat regulation. The proposed regulation will alienate the majority of landowners who might be quite happy to protect their ratsnakes, but now will be afraid to admit that they have these threatened creatures on their land, for fear of being prosecuted under the Endangered Species Act.

I am an environmental planner and I work with many lake associations across eastern Ontario. We depend upon the interest and enthusiasm of landowners to carry out land and water stewardship projects on their lake-based properties, including monitoring numbers and locations of important species. On behalf of the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association, and knowing that many other lake associations in this part of the province will have the same concerns as we do, I ask that you withdraw this proposed regulation. Instead, help us with our initiatives to inform and educate our landowners about this valuable species. We want to carry out our own programs of stewardship and protection without the threat of inappropriate and unnecessary restrictions this regulation will impose.

Sincerely,

Gordon K Rodgers, B.Sc., MES
President, Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Association

Everyone's Favourite Rodent by Gord Rodgers

Anyone seen a *Castor canadensis* lately? Or maybe you've noticed a bit of their handiwork – those fallen trees, dammed up streams and culverts, and some really healthy looking condo-sized lodges.

It seems we are supporting a healthy population of our national animal, the beaver. And you can't but admire their abilities – adult beavers, who average 40-60 pounds, can cut down 216 trees in a year, and they can fell trees up to about 20 inches in diameter (although they tried to take one down on my property that was nearly 40 inches, and while they didn't get it down, they did manage to girdle and kill what had been a beautiful and huge oak). They will build and inhabit stand-alone lodges, or they may make burrows in the shoreline of a lake or river, and use these as their lodges.

Contrary to common belief, our loons do not take a mate for life, but guess what? Beavers do! They live in family units in those beaver condos, and just so it doesn't get too crowded, once the

little ones have reached 2 years of age, they are kicked out and have to find a place of their own. They have a tendency to increase or decrease their number of kits (baby beavers) based on population density. When the pond is full of beavers reproduction slows down; when adults leave a pond reproduction

or lake of beavers, the best you can do is to discourage them from chewing the trees you love – try: fencing areas off with 1.5m high fences; wrapping individual trees with 1m high hardware cloth or several layers of chicken wire. And in the case of those damn dams, try a "beaver leveller" like they use at the outlet



▲ One of the many beaver lodges in the FIMLA watershed.



▲ *Castor Canadensis*.

increases.

We all probably have our stories about beavers, and many of us may have noticed that the population is quite healthy. Our plentiful wetlands and healthy ecosystem means critters like *Castor Canadensis* can live a healthy life. The only problem is, they can be a bit destructive if they take up residence near your favourite stand of trees. Since it is virtually impossible to rid your pond

to Buffy Lake; if you decide to clean out the dam, be forewarned that the beavers will probably be back to rebuild in no time at all.

And one last thought. If you happen to dispatch a beaver, remember those 2-year olds, who are always looking for a new place to live ... so you might want to just sit back and admire their ingenious lifestyle, and perhaps wrap a few of your favourite trees. ■



FOCA Communication and Advocacy Drive

FIMLA is one of FOCA's 500 member associations and our members help swell the ranks of the 50,000 members represented by FOCA. To function more effectively as the voice of this extensive community of waterfront property owners FOCA wants to work on keeping you connected and informed. As part of this campaign on behalf of FOCA we are now forwarding FOCA "Elerts" (email bulletins) to all members on our email contact list to give you direct access to the latest information and help ensure you get the full benefit FOCA membership. If you have not received your FOCA "Elert" make sure we have your email address. Alternatively you can sign up for FOCA "Elerts", messages and newsletters directly. Go to the FOCA website at: www.foca.on.ca and look for the red box at the right to "Sign Up" instantly or phone: (705) 749-3622.

Hinchinbrooke Road, Old and New by David Jefferies

Some residents of the FIMLA area who access their properties using the Old Hinchinbrooke Road, may be interested to learn that this road dates from 1836, making it over 175 years old. But it was not an easy feat to get the road established.

The main obstacle was the gigantic Cameron's Bog, extending almost from Petworth to Verona, together with Fourteen Island Lake and its associated wetlands draining into the Spring Lakes. Prior to 1825 this area of drowned land, lakes and deep valleys created an impassible barrier for settlers trying to reach their land grants to the north in Hinchinbrooke Township

Negotiating the rivers and bogs out of Kingston resulted in what are termed 'forced roads' across private property. For many decades in the late 1700's and early 1800's these roads ignored most of the gridded statutory road allowances. In 1826 a direct route overland from Kingston running diagonally from the Sydenham Road to Murvale was established, called the Portland Road.

From there a 66ft road allowance was used, albeit with much difficulty, which ran in a nearly straight line to Spikes Corners (today's Harrowsmith) between settler Lots 6 and 7. Then the route continued north up to present day Hartington in the 8th Concession. Most of this route forms today's Highway 38. But at that time settlers could get no further.

Desperate measures to resolve matters included the following strategy:

Ten Dollars will be paid by the Subscriber to the person that gives the most approved Blaze of a road from the 8th Concession of Portland, to enter as near as possible the 2nd Concession line of the Township of Hinchinbrooke, as far back as No. 20 of the said Township.

*John Duncan, Superintendent of Roads
Kingston, July 21, 1826*

To overcome the problems of road-building beyond Hartington in 1835 a petition was made to the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Colborne, for funds to build a road to the mill site at Portland High Falls (north of the current

Hinchinbrooke Road and Desert Lake Road). The petition asked for £1,200 and a number of meetings on the subject, such as the one advertised below, were held in 1835 and 1836.

British Whig February 2, 1835

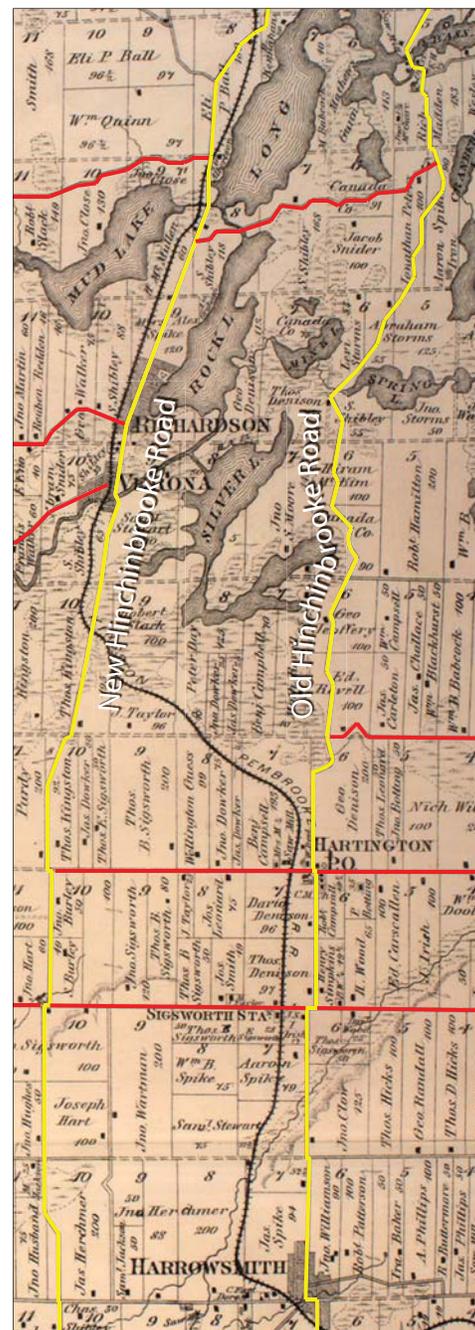
All persons having claims for land intending to settle in the townships of Hinchinbrooke... are requested to meet at Mayo's Inn in Kinston Saturday, 14th of February, for the purpose of concerting measures to blaze a trail from the Township of Portland so that persons may travel hither without a guide.

A number of years were to pass before a road to Hinchinbrooke was built.

However this was not the only route being sought. The diagonal Portland Road was extended beyond the valley at Murvale to Jacob Shibley's land at Star Corners. This new route, created from the cleared statutory road allowance between Lots 10 and 11 joining Shibley Creek, ran almost parallel and west of the current Highway 38.

As a result of a petition from Warren Godfrey in October 1846 the County Surveyor, George Chamberlain, laid out a road that became known as the New Hinchinbrooke Road. It ran from Portland Concession 8 at Lot 10-11 to the 3rd and 4th Concessions in Hinchinbrooke via a bridge over Hardwood Creek. It joined with the road that led to the mills at Bellrock from the south end of present day Verona. This route would ultimately be extended further north to become known as the Frontenac Road. Verona's main street was named Frontenac Street.

Ultimately the route chosen for the Kingston & Pembroke railway was the deciding factor in finding what appears to be the shortest crossing of Cameron's Bog, following a diagonal route between Hartington and Verona joining the Old and New Hinchinbrooke Roads. However the construction and



▲ Historical Atlas J.H. Meacham, 1878

maintenance of Highway 38 parallel to the K&P rail line at this same point of crossing would prove to be a costly and difficult process resulting in several collapses before a permanent engineered road bed could be achieved. The bridge abutments of the railway crossing over Hardwood Creek can still be seen from Highway 38.

Ref: Patterson, W. J. 1994. *Portland My Home* pp. 23-28.

