

June 2016



URLA Newsletter

Upper Rideau Lake Association
Box 67, Westport, Ontario, K0G1X0

President's Message-Jayne MacDonald

I write this in anticipation of a beautiful, hot summer season at the lake. Boats are getting launched and our hazard buoys are in place. This weekend I will be collecting our first water sample of the season and measuring the clarity and temperature of the water in McNally's Bay.

URLA participated on the Technical Steering Committee for the Environmental Assessment on the Westport Wastewater Facility. The final report was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in January. We are anxious to see a permanent solution to the wastewater woes in the Village of Westport. The solution will not see this facility discharging any effluent into the Upper Rideau Lake again.

The village was not successful with their recent application to the province for Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) for funding despite having many letters of support. We have written letters to Minister Brad Duguid, Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, to ask them to reconsider that decision based on the dire need to complete this project. To say that the current system is not meeting the needs of the community is an understatement!

As we noted in our Fall newsletter mandatory septic system re-inspections will be implemented by the Township of Rideau Lakes this summer. There will also be a number of voluntary inspections. The Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office will be carrying out the inspections.

The URLA board of directors is in need of volunteers. Please contact Wendy Stewart at 613-484-6228 if you are interested in volunteering your time to save/preserve our lake.

Please join us at our AGM on July 2nd.

Water Quality

As part of the "The People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes Project" the Upper Rideau was mapped for aquatic plant matter and had diatom analysis of core samples run by Carleton University's Dr. Jesse Vermaire from the Institute of Environmental Science & Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. The Upper Rideau was one of the lakes tested that showed had very high biovolume (or as some would say "it's weedy".) A quote from Dr. Vermaire's study:

"Lakes with zebra mussels and higher total phosphorous concentrations have more plant biovolume (particularly sites with 100% biovolume that is the greatest nuisance to lake users). Invasive species and nutrient enrichment are factors we can try and control to help reduce nuisance plant biovolume!"

This project has reached completion and an Algae Manual is available:

<http://rvca.ca/PDF/Algae%20Manual%20Concise.pdf>

URLA AGM 2016

Will be held at the
North Crosby CC
875-8th Concession Rd.,
Westport,
Saturday, July 2 @
10:00 am

Guests include Robin Jones-
Mayor of Westport and
Rideau Lakes Township
Mayor Ron Holman

*****Please join us for
coffee @ 9:30, a
complimentary BBQ
will follow the meeting**

BE ON THE ALERT FOR TICKS!

**- The black-legged tick
or deer tick is now
commonly found in
our area.**

**-refer to Leeds,
Grenville & Lanark
Health Unit website for
current information**

www.healthunit.org

Need help planting trees?



If you want to help protect the health of the Upper Rideau Lake but are not sure what to do here is a program that can help you.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Shoreline Naturalization Program is providing *free* shoreline planting projects for residents on Upper Rideau Lake in 2016/2017! This program provides a site visit, custom planting plan, as well as the native trees and shrubs. Program staff will even come out to do the planting for you if needed! Why? Natural shorelines, rich in native plants provide an important service to our lake by acting as a filtering system keeping nutrients out of our lake. They also protect shorelines from erosion and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Free projects are only available for 2016/2017 so contact Meaghan McDonald for a site visit today:
meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca or [1-800-267-3504 ext. 1192](tel:1-800-267-3504)

URLA Plant Distribution 2016

The 2016 URLA plant distribution took place on Saturday May 7th, 560 plants were given to 13 residents.

Both RVCA and Watersheds Canada, working together will assist residents in assessing their shoreline needs and will also plant the recommended trees and shrubs.

Q. *Why it important for boaters to watch their wake?*

A: *We all wish to enjoy the Rideau Canal in our own way. All of us have the responsibility to ensure that others have the ability to enjoy the waterway to its fullest. Excessive wakes can endanger swimmers, canoeists and kayakers as well as aquatic and terrestrial animals. It can also damage property (watercrafts, docks etc.) and contributes to excessive erosion.*

Responsible visitor behavior is essential in protecting the ecology and the history of the Rideau Canal so it can remain intact and strong into the future.
 (Parks Canada)



WILD PARSNIP

Poisonous: Yes, do not touch this plant.

Height: 1 to 2 metres.

Leaves: Pinnately compound with 2-5 pairs of opposite, sharply toothed leaflets.

Stems: Completely smooth and reddish/green in colour.

Flowers: Yellow, umbrella shaped, 10-20 cm across. Similar in appearance to dill.

CAUTION: If you come in contact with this plant, you could experience severe burns to your skin. Contact with eyes can cause temporary or permanent blindness.



Anyone having information on specific locations where this weed is posing a public risk should contact the Counties Noxious & Nuisance Weed Control Office/ Leeds Grenville at 613-342-3840 ext. 2413.

It's Time to Renew Your URLA Membership

WHY?

Our Lake had two confirmed algae blooms in July 2015 they were fairly short-lived and had relatively low toxin levels. The "bloom" in 2014 however was toxic. Through your renewal we maintain contact lists allowing us to co-operate with the local Health Unit and the Ministry of the Environment so that notices about algae blooms and other important information can be widely distributed as quickly as possible.

URLA installs and maintains the navigations buoys on our lake.

Your membership also gives you access to the benefits that FOCA has to offer.

FOCA Association Members are groups who represent lakes or roads, and who have paying members. URLA Members can access all FOCA's membership benefits, including the boat and cottage insurance, and all other offers listed on their benefits webpage.



FOCA also runs workshops and seminars.

FOCA's popular **Cottage Succession Seminar** encourages everyone to consider how they plan to "Keep the 'Family' in the Family Cottage." Learn what you need to do NOW, to create a cottage sharing agreement and protect the family cottage for the future. Each session includes valuable information from estate lawyer Peter Lillico about: *the importance of a cottage Sharing Agreement; paying the Capital Gains Tax; managing responsibilities and expenses to keep the cottage going once the next generation is in place.*

Sunday, August 14th (12:30-2:30pm) @ the Perth Legion - co-hosted by the Lake Networking Group.

Renew your URLA membership and Register now with FOCA to secure your space at this event
info@foca.on.ca 705-749-3622.

2 for 1 Lockage for 2016

From May 20th until June 30th, Canada Parks and Recreation is offering a 2 for 1 special on single lock and return or 1 day lockage. To take advantage of this offer, download the coupon from their website pc.gc.ca

We have also heard that lockage may be free on July 1st! Please verify with Parks Canada.

In 2017, as part of Canada's 150th celebrations, the Government of Canada is gifting Canadian and International visitors with **free** admission to national parks, historic sites and national marine conservation areas owned operated by Parks Canada.

They are also offering **free lockage** on historic canals and waterways for recreational boaters.

Lymphosarcoma

Lymphosarcoma is a viral disease affecting Northern Pike and Muskellunge of spawning age. It is highly contagious and is usually fatal to fish within one year. The virus is believed to spread through direct skin contact when spawning. In later stages of the disease the liver, spleen and kidneys of the fish deteriorate.

Lymphosarcoma is not transferrable to humans but the appearance of fish with large lesions make them undesirable for human consumption. It is good practice to wash your hands immediately after handling any dead or diseased fish. The fish should be thoroughly cooked to ensure the flesh is safe to eat.



URLA



Executive for 2015/16

President -Jayne MacDonald
-613-549-0732
Vice Pres. – vacant
Past Pres. – Wendy Stewart
-613-484-6228
Treasurer – Murray Kane
Secretary – Jennifer Davis
Membership – Christine Skirth
Community Affairs- Diana Kemp
Lakeshore- Colleen Holmes
Water Quality- Allison Smith
Newsletter-Carol Thomas
Members at Large –Bob Branson
Web Master- Huw Davis

E-MAIL:

jmacdonald43@cogeco.ca

Mail: P.O. Box 67,
Westport, Ontario,
K0G 1X0

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.urla.ca

We're also on [Facebook!](#)

Remember- Bass Season opens the 3rd Saturday
in June!! June 18-December 15, 2016 this year.

Thank You...

We would like to once again thank to the following businesses:

*The Cove- for providing a great spot for our meetings complete with coffee!
Westport Village Rentals- for file storage
Cross Street and Associates- for auditing our financial records
Internet Kingston and Huw Davis for Web support, and
GDH Limited for generously printing our newsletter.*

*We would also like to thank our many volunteers, our Road Reps, Water
Samplers and AGM helpers.
Special thanks also to Don Rasmussen, George Ingram and crew for once
again installing our navigation buoys.*

About Our Organization...

URLA is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization comprised of community members surrounding the Upper Rideau Lake.

The Association surveys the lake for potential problems, monitors water quality, promotes shoreline maintenance and restoration and also gives a strong voice for its members to the regional bodies governing the lake.

Our membership fee is still \$30 per year. The membership form is enclosed and available on our website. Updating your contact information (including email address), with membership renewal helps us to contact you when the need arises.

We have vacancies on our board and are looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Wendy Stewart or Jayne.

URLA is also a member of FOCA <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits>

SOME IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP HANDY

MOECC Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060 (toll-free) to report suspected Blue-green algae blooms.

Leeds Grenville Health Unit 613-342-3840 - Noxious & Nuisance Weed Control Office/ ext. 2413 to report specific locations where the wild parsnip weed is posing a public risk

MNRF -Call 1-877-847-7667 to report fishing or hunting violations or any illegal activity against Ontario's natural resources.

Parks Canada (613) 283-7199 for instructions on making an Application to Perform Work in the Waters and along the Shorelines of the Rideau Canal