

June 2017



URLA Newsletter

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



CANADA 150
1867-2017

What an amazing country we live in!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA

RVCA are continuing the **SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM**, if you are interested in having them come out to plant trees/shrubs along your shoreline contact **Meaghan McDonald** for a site visit: meaghan.mcdonald@rvca.ca or **1-800-267-3504 ext. 1192**



*Apparently the Westport fireworks celebrating Canada's 150 will be at Rideau Vista School this year and should be visible around the lake!
Lets hope for clear skies!*

President's Message-Christine Skirth

How will you be celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday? For our family, it is spending time at the lake floating in a chair bouncing with the boat waves, joining the kids and young at heart as they leap into the lake with a giggle or scream as they land in the fresh water, actively fishing, tubing, and skiing as we attempt to perfect our skills, watching the sunset reflect off the lake, and great socials with friends and family. Sound fun? But now imagine what you would be doing if the lake was too contaminated to swim in, the fish ridden with toxins, the lake a dull shade of green with barely a reflection, and your boat resting on an unmarked shoal damaged beyond repair. Not so great eh! Not to worry, the volunteers of the Upper Rideau Lake Association together with many government agencies and interest groups have been working to educate residents and visitors how to care for and protect this resource and have been taking action to implement real change. Find out what you can do on your own waterfront to protect our lake by visiting the URLA web page or better yet come and join us at the Annual General Meeting on July 8, 2017. As we reflect on this milestone year for Canada, it is an important time to reflect on the people that have helped make difference and encourage others to do the same. On behalf of the 2017 URLA Board, I would like to extend a BIG Thank You to the founding URLA members and those that have spent many years actively participating. I would also like to encourage others to become an URLA member and maybe even join the Board. We currently have an opening for Vice-President, Lake Shore and members at Large.

Hope you all have a safe and fun summer at the lake!

URLA AGM 2017

Please join us... Saturday July 8, 2017

North Crosby Community Hall

875-8th Concession Rd., Westport

Guests include: Terry Davidson (Septic Inspector Mississippi Rideau System Office)

Join us for coffee @0930, the meeting starts at 1000.

A complimentary BBQ will follow the meeting



“The forest tent caterpillars are voracious eaters!”

Caterpillar Explosion !!!

This spring has seen an explosion of caterpillars in communities across Ontario. It is suspected that it may only get worse over the next few years.

The eastern tent caterpillar which has a solid white line down its back and builds triangular silk tents in fruit trees, and the forest tent caterpillar which has a dotted white line down its back and gathers in masses on tree trunks are two species common to our area.

These caterpillars feed early enough in the spring that healthy trees are usually able to grow a second set of leaves. While it looks bad, stripping trees of foliage thins the forest canopy allowing light to reach smaller plants.

Caterpillars are a good food source for birds, and as they defecate and die they fertilize the forest floor

The best time to manage caterpillars is in the early morning or late evening. As soap destroys the skin of the caterpillars you can try spraying them with soapy water (2 tablespoons/quart of water) or dropping caterpillars/ tents into a pail of soapy water.

Please use biodegradable soap!

There are other methods of controlling caterpillars available but be mindful of the effects on the environment...plants, animals and our lake!

SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION PROGRAM

The township of Rideau Lakes began its mandatory Septic Re-inspection program in 2016. The goal was to complete 100 mandatory inspections and 50 voluntary inspections. The following table shows the results.

LAKE	COMPLETED
<i>Mandatory</i>	
Upper Rideau	38
Westport Sand	11
<i>Voluntary</i>	
Upper Rideau	4
Westport Sand	2
TOTAL	55

As a result of the program, 34 systems were identified as having no concerns, 18 required remedial work, 1 system replacement was required and 2 properties were requested to provide more information.

The Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office (MRSSO) plans to complete the remaining 49 mandatory inspections this spring as well as conduct the 100 mandatory inspections for 2017 this summer. If you have any questions about how the re-inspections are conducted, plan to attend URLA’s AGM on July 8th as a representative from the MRSSO has agreed to attend our meeting. For educational opportunities, MRSSO encourages property owners to be present during the re-inspections.

Did you know...

That you may be eligible for a grant to cover some of the costs of repairing a faulty septic system. The RVCA’s Rural Clean Water Program provides grants to cover 50% of the costs of **eligible** repairs up to a maximum of \$1000. Rideau Lakes Township will again be contracting with the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office to conduct 100 mandatory septic system re-inspections on our lake. Should you need to make repairs to your system as a result of this inspection, please contact the RVCA at 613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504. **Repairs completed prior to contacting the RVCA will not be eligible for funding.**

URLA's Hazard Marking Program

URLA has been marking shoals on the Upper Rideau Lake since 2000 and currently there are 10 navigation buoys at various locations on the Lake. Each year they are set out close to the long weekend of May to coincide with the opening of navigation on the Rideau Canal and taken off around Thanksgiving weekend when the canal closes. The setting of the buoys is done under a permit issued by Parks Canada and the setting out and removal of the buoys is reported to the Canadian Coast Guard which issues a "Notship" (notice to mariners).

The buoys must also conform to Transport Canada's regulations for private buoys. To meet regulatory requirements URLA uses the Tidelands SB-40, a Canadian made buoy which costs approximately \$500.

Our program is a modest one and like all of our activities is conducted by volunteers. It complements Parks Canada's system of navigation buoys and the Canadian Hydrographic Service chart which is available for the lake (and which all serious boaters should have).

Are there other hazards on the Lake which should be marked? Very likely, and the Association will certainly consider setting more buoys to contribute to safe boating on the lake; in fact, two were added off Round Island in 2011 and last summer, an additional buoy was placed in McNally Bay. Members are encouraged to report hazards to the executive if they feel they would warrant marking. It is particularly important to identify exactly where the hazard is located so that it can be examined and evaluated to determine whether it should be added to the marking program. Would the placing of a marker or markers appreciably diminish the threat posed by the hazard? Is it a hazard which could or should be marked by another party or by an agency such as Parks Canada? Does the hazard pose a general threat to boaters or does it affect only one or two properties? Can the marking be done within the financial and human resources of URLA?

Like other URLA programs, our navigation markers are intended as a service to our members and boaters at large and as a contribution towards making the Upper Rideau Lake a safer and better place.

The Rideau Canal Management Plan

Parks Canada is in the process of updating the 2005 Management Plan for the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. This important plan sets clear, strategic direction for the management and operation of the Rideau Canal.

Last summer a number of open houses were held to introduce the public to the upcoming management plan review process and to highlight results of the Site Assessment. During 2017, multi-faceted public and Indigenous engagement and consultation will be undertaken to shape the development of a new plan. Further details will be posted on the Rideau Canal website. Members are encouraged to participate in the consultation sessions or to provide input by contacting RideauCanal-Info@pc.gc.ca

The URLA executive will participate in the process and provide input at appropriate stages up to the completion of the plan, scheduled for March, 2018



URLA's Tidelands SB-40 Navigation Buoy

"If you happen to notice one of our buoys has become loose, please contact URLA or your Road Rep to ensure its prompt replacement."



Don't forget to pick up your FREE lock pass for 2017!

URLA



Executive for 2016/17

President-Christine Skirth
-613-297-7687
Vice Pres. – acting, Anne Carter
Past Pres. –Jayne MacDonald
Treasurer – Murray Kane
Secretary – Jennifer Davis
Membership- Anne Carter
Community Affairs- Diana Kemp
Lakeshore- Colleen Holmes
Water Quality- David McKinney
Newsletter-Carol Thomas
Members at Large
-Terry Frostad
-Neil Kudrinko
Web Master- Huw Davis

E-MAIL:

UpperRideauLakeAssoc@gmail.com

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!](#)

Update on Westport Sewage Repair

The Village of Westport put the construction of the wastewater system update out to tender and are evaluating the bids to select the most suitable company to build it.

In the meantime, they applied for and were granted, an exemption to the Certificate of Operation, which allows them to once again spray irrigate this summer. This saves the cost of hauling the waste away by truck.

They are maintaining their policy of "Zero discharge" into our lake.

While they were not successful in their last grant application for funding assistance from the Province, we are hopeful that a new opportunity for grant funding, which should be available shortly, will be approved.

BURN PERMITS

Just a reminder to check the Rideau Lakes website for rules regarding open air burning. ANY fire greater than a 2x2 ft campfire will likely require a permit which can be purchased for \$10/ year!

Permits can be purchased at Hearth and Home-Westport, Gordaniers Hardware-Elgin and the Rideau Lakes Township Office

To check fire conditions you can call the Fire Condition Hotline at 613-928-2251, ext 600 or 1-800-928-2250, ext 600.

A HUGE THANK YOU once again 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 George Ingram, Don Rasmussen, Peter Newguard and Paul Byrne 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 year runs from May to April, our fee is still \$30 per year. Our 2017/18 membership form is enclosed. Updating your contact information, including email address with membership renewal helps us to contact you when important issues/safety matters arise.

You can now pay your membership on line! Please remember to include an updated membership form.

Email us @ UpperRideauLakeAssoc@gmail.com Remember to add us to your contact list!

We are always looking for interested volunteers. If you would like to volunteer your time, please contact Christine Skirth, your road rep or any board member.

*** Your URLA membership also entitles you to all the member benefits of FOCA, Federation of Cottagers' Association. See <http://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits>