



If pictures are not displaying or links are broken click [HERE](#).

Feb. 2, 2019

Upper Rideau Lake Association, Box 67, Westport, ON, K0G 1X0



URLA is a not for profit organization who's activities are primarily funded by the annual fees paid by it's members. By [joining](#) URLA, your fee is used to support activities such as [water quality](#) testing, [shoreline](#) assessments, and public awareness programs. All of these activities are focused upon understanding and improving the Upper Rideau Lake [eco-system](#)



A fire in Westport Jan. 18 destroyed the Fredenburgh House. - Submitted by James Doran

The fire at Fredenburgh House Friday, Jan. 18, which is part of The Cove Inn in Westport, has left a family homeless and displaced guests at the B&B. "For those of you who don't know, we have always had this building since living in Westport," wrote Seamus Cowan, owner, on his Facebook page about the fire.

"It's the original one we restored when my folks Mary and Terry brought our young family east from Calgary in 1985."

Over the following couple of years, the family did multiple renovations and turned it into a bed and breakfast business.

"With my siblings Jeff and Jen, I lived in three different rooms in that house and it has remained full of character and without really changing much since the original renovation," Cowan wrote.

"Of course, it's been a hard last couple days. Everything seems surreal since the time when I first saw the uncontrollable flames to now in this still, deep cold. Like anyone who has been through this type of disaster or tragedy, we will just work through it step by step and make it through to the next level of the game."

Cowan said the community has been remarkable, showing offers of generosity,

love, help and support during this time of tragedy.

“How quickly we all rally for each other. They say you can’t pick your family but you can pick your friends. Well I think times like this redefine your friends and community AS part of your family and in the end blur those lines.”

Cowan said offers of support have been wonderful, and he hopes the public will continue to support The Cove, which includes the music venue and accommodations.

“We have great, close, local, alternate accommodation for all previously made bookings in the Fredenburgh House, which we are getting sorted out as quickly as possible,” Cowan stated.

The cove is a gold sponsor of the URLA. They provide free facilities for our board meetings and even give us free coffee.



Terry, Mary Seamus, and the rest of the Cowan family have worked so hard at keeping high standards for the Inn. The Cove has raised money for the unfortunate by holding fundraisers for people in need in the community.



After over the 27 years, the Cove has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. (For the **Blues on The Rideau Series** alone, they raised over **\$72K** for local Westport charities and organizations since the series started 14 years ago). Donations went to both schools in town, Friends of Foley Mountain, the Library, Friends of the Arena, Lions Mobility Van and many more, as well as individuals who needed help. Let's show them some love and take away some stress by giving them a [helping hand](#). They deserve it.

Missing summer?



[RICK MERCER ON THE RIDEAU CANAL](#)

Rick travels through the historic Rideau Canal from Smiths Falls to Ottawa, ON, operating locks along the way.

https://youtu.be/ju_nYn6BALA



Subscribe to email updates from URLA

The URLA posts to social media every week. You can receive these posts by email and you can cancel them anytime by clicking on the “Unsubscribe” button in the email.

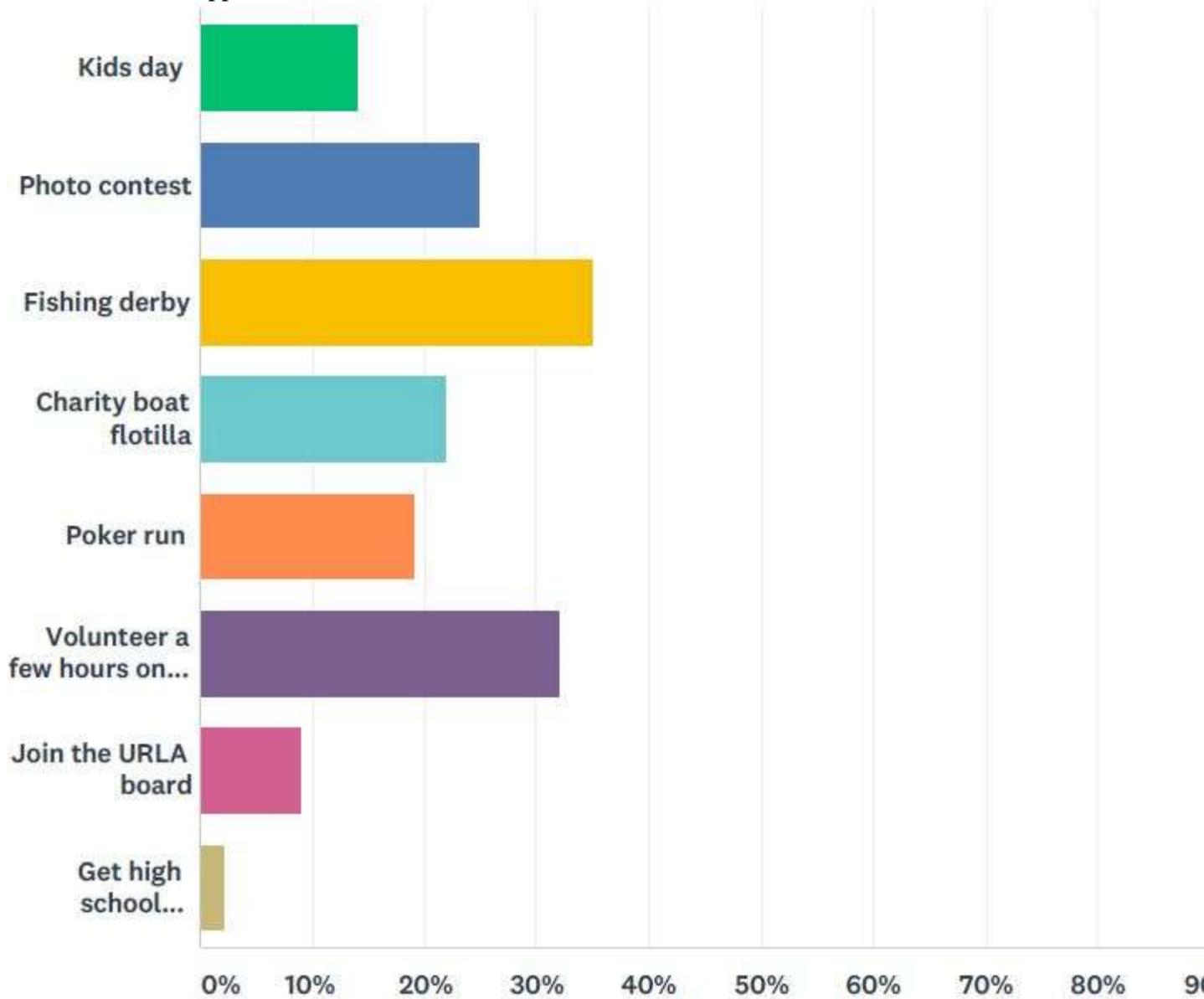
Find out what is happening around the lake. click [HERE](#).



Survey results

We received 165 responses to our survey last year. 54% were in favour of stocking the lake with walleye and we have given this information to the Ministry of Natural Resources. It is just one of the factors that will inform their decision. A Fishing derby was the most requested event with 35 people interested. The most frequent suggestion for the URLA was to address the issue of cut weeds being left to float out on the lake. 80% of respondents follow us on Facebook. Here is how to [connect with us on social media](#)

Q2 In which of the following events would you likely participate?
Answered: 100 Skipped: 66



Thanks to all of you who offered to participate in activities around our lake. There will be opportunities to to meet with other residents who share your interests this summer. [MORE](#)



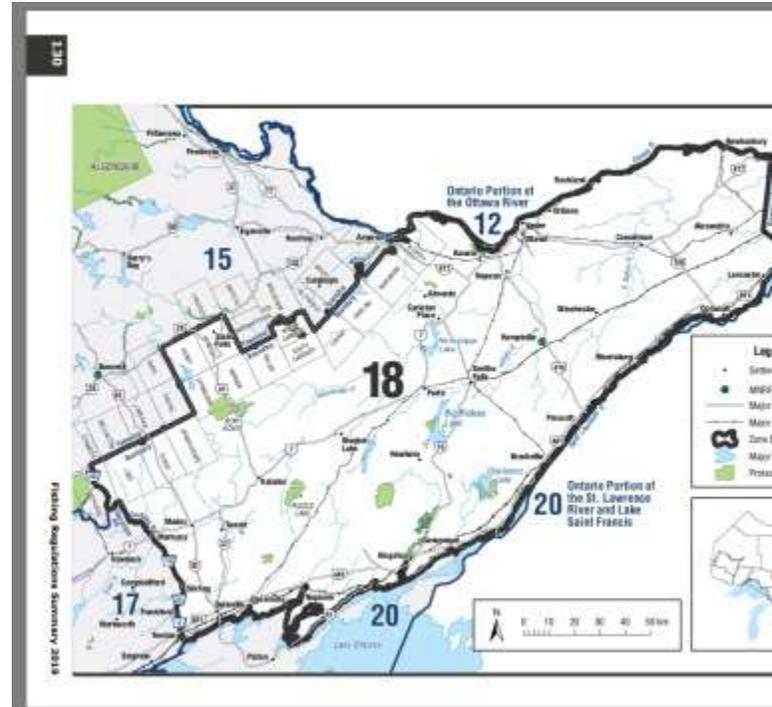
Canada Rideau canal

Early bird discounts for boaters are here until March 31, 2019!

Purchase a [Seasonal Lockage Permit](#) and receive 20% off. Purchase a [Seasonal Lockage and Mooring Package](#) and receive 20% off the price of lockage and 10% off the price of mooring. Do you love to travel by pleasure boat or canoe? Launch your own adventure along Canada's original highways. Here's your chance to create unforgettable memories, surrounded by the sights and sounds of Canada's waterways.

2019 FISHING DATES AND LIMITS

Below are the zone wide season limits. Click [HERE](#) for species exceptions.



Fishing Zone 18 (includes Upper Rideau Lake)

Lake Trout

Season: fourth Saturday in May to September 8

Limits: S-2 and C-1

Lake Whitefish

Season: open all year Limits: S-12 and C-6

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass combined

Season: third Saturday in June to December 15

Limits: S-6 and C-2

Muskellunge

Season: 1st Saturday in June to December 15

Limits: S-1; must be greater than 91 cm, and C-0

Northern Pike

Season: January 1 to March 31 and second Saturday in May to December 31 Limits: S-6 and C-2

[MORE](#)

Veterans fish free



Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The decision was made to proceed with the free recreational fishing for veterans and Canadian Armed Forces service members initiative.

This allows veterans and active Canadian Armed Forces members to enjoy free recreational fishing beginning on January 1, 2019. To enable this, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry amended the Fish Licensing Regulation (Ontario Regulation 664/98) made under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 to deem specified identification cards issued by the Department of National Defence Canada, to be sport fishing licences. [MORE](#).



Ice Fishing Season is Here

Many of Ontario's thousands of lakes across the province are host to excellent ice fishing opportunities and many of Ontario's angling

enthusiasts are taking advantage of the great conditions after the recent cold weather. The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) would like to remind anglers and anyone venturing on to frozen water bodies to put safety first.

“Winter fishing is the time of year where many anglers are able to access their favourite fishing spots that are inaccessible during the open water season,” said OCOA President Sean Cronsberry, “but anglers need to be sure that ice conditions are safe and they have the equipment with them to deal with an emergency. By following some simple safety measures, it could save your life, or the life of someone else.” [MORE](#)

COTTAGE LIFE'S BEST WAYS TO TEST ICE THICKNESS



As a kid, I usually sent my baby brother onto the ice to test its thickness. Miraculously, he never died. Less perilous... [MORE](#)



Members Wanted for Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee

MISSISSIPPI AND RIDEAU WATERSHEDS, January 29, 2019 — The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region (MRSPR) is seeking Source Protection Committee members who are interested in protecting municipal drinking water sources in the Mississippi and Rideau Valley watersheds.

The MRSPR Committee was established in 2007 as a result of the Province's *Clean Water Act*. The committee guides local efforts to protect drinking water at the source and is made up of one-third municipal, one-third economic and one-third public sector representatives. The composition ensures that a variety of local interests are represented at the decision-making table as the committee works to oversee the implementation of science-based source protection plans.

The committee is currently undergoing a renewal to ensure that it remains in compliance with Ontario Regulation 288/07, the regulation that governs Source Protection Committees under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*. The committee is looking for two economic sector representatives to liaise on behalf of commercial, industrial and agricultural interests, as well as two public sector representatives to liaise on behalf of general public, environmental, First Nations and non-governmental organization interests.

“If you have experience and knowledge in one of these two sectors and have an interest in protecting drinking water sources we

hope you will apply,” said Marika Livingston, Mississippi-Rideau Source Water Protection Project Manager. “Among other qualifications, these positions require a multi-year commitment, an ability to understand scientific and technical reports and attendance at the two or more Source Protection Committee meetings held each year. Applicants must also live or work in the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds.”

Future work of the Committee includes the review of new scientific and technical information to ensure that the Source Protection Plan and its supporting reports remain current and relevant.

Further details regarding these part-time positions including descriptions of roles and responsibilities and an application form are available online at <https://www.mrsourcewater.ca/en/source-protection-committee-member-recruitment>. A small *per diem* as well as expenses (mileage and meals) will be paid while working on Source Protection business.

Applications are being accepted until March 8, 2019.

Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation



Since 1991, the (RLEF) has protected and preserved the environment of the Rideau Lakes, in collaboration with the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) and the Upper Rideau Lake Association ([URLA](#)). A registered Canadian charity, we support projects that safeguard and enhance our lake environment.

This summer, we supported Carleton University's Prof. Steven Cooke's study of the bass population in the Rideau Lakes. You may have seen his team tagging fish at one of the derbies, or even have caught a tagged fish yourself. Backing from community-based organizations like ours helped Dr. Cooke leverage more than \$100,000 in funding from federal research programs.

RLEF also helped address a major threat to Rideau Lakes' water quality, the failure of the village of Westport's sewage treatment system. Construction of an improved replacement system is complete, but testing and monitoring of inflow continues. RLEF Director Jayne MacDonald was an active member of the Technical Steering Committee for the Environmental Assessment process associated with the improved system. Other initiatives focused on water quality and testing, including the "Love your Lake" shoreline study and the "People, Aquatic Plants and Healthy Lakes" project, and water safety, including the placement of shoal markers and the administration of the Doug Good Shoal

Marker Fund. We also maintain a reserve fund that will enable RLEF to intervene should there be a future environmental threat to the Rideau Lakes.

We need your support to continue our work. Your donation is tax-deductible, and is easy to make online using the link at www.rlef.ca. Or you can mail your cheque to Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, PO Box 93, Portland, ON K0G 1V0

RLEF is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors drawn from the Big and Upper Rideau Lake Associations. Our overheads are low, and we can assure you that the vast majority of your donation will flow directly to protecting the water and the lakes that we love.

Please remember the lake in your year-end tax planning, and give generously. Our lakes are worth the investment.

Michael M. Peterson Chair, RLEF
Registered Canadian Charity Number
139789713RR0001
<http://www.rlef.ca> | info@rlef.ca



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations **Grant for**

Biodiversity Events

The Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) is once again intending to provide "micro-grants" of up to \$500 to support biodiversity events and projects in Ontario around the **International Day for Biodiversity** on May 22nd. Events must be open to the public and take place between May 1 and June 29. [Click here for details and a link to the online application.](#) **Apply by March 22.**



Thank you!

We would like to once again thank the following businesses

- The Cove- for providing a great spot for our meetings complete with coffee!
- 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, Peter Newgard and Paul Byrne for once again installation and maintenance of our navigation buoys



URLA .ca Time to renew URLA membership for 2019

Support us by renewing early and save! Membership is \$30.00 when you renew before our AGM. [Join or renew now](#). You do not need to be a lakefront property owner. Membership is open to everyone who cares about our lake. Join or renew your URLA membership online: [Click here](#).



You may also join by mailing in your information and your cheque [URLA MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) at the bottom



[Benefits of Membership](#) You can help keep our lake beautiful and save money on exclusive member benefits



Contact us

Click [here](#) for board members email addresses or contact us below