

GRWA Shorelines

The Gananoque River Waterways Association

Box 15 Lyndhurst, ON KOE 1N0 www.grwa.ca

Member of :

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve: www.fabr.ca

The 1000 Islands Watershed Land Trust www.tiwlit.ca

Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association www.a2alink.org

February 2014; v. 14 #1of 2

A Winter Letter from Mike O'Connor

It is January 28th. a sunny day and -17C on the Gananoque River. Winter 2014 is making up for all the past 5 winters that were mild with little snow. Winter arrived one month early and it has not let up. The snow, ice and wind have kept us busy.



Storms, blizzards and freezing rain have brought out a community spirit here where neighbours check up on one another and lend a helping hand for snow removal and getting supplies in. Our newest year round neighbours called asking for advice about winterizing. They were proud of their intent to pioneer in the event of the loss of electricity. So far, we have been blessed with only momentary threats of a blackout. Seasonal neighbours have been out to ice fish, snowshoe and cross country ski as they check up on their cottages. Fortunately all survived the ice storms without damage.

I have a small 23 horsepower tractor with a front end snow blower and a rear end scraper that enables us to drive right up to our back door of our house which is at the bottom of a steep hill. Today, after a weekend snow fall and high winds, I was actually tunneling through the drifts. I spent 5 hours on the tractor in bright sunlight, with ice crystals in the air and the snow blowing at my back. It was a pleasant interlude.

We have used more firewood so far this year than any of the previous years and there is still at least two more months of winter. Fortunately we live in the woods and there is wood sufficient to keep us warm.

We try to keep food on hand in case of a power failure as well as a few tons of salted sand for ice-rain events. We have various back-up systems and for the most part, we feel up to challenges that winter can throw.

The snow is light and the cross-country skiing good. The bird feeders are busy places. This morning we watched a pileated woodpecker searching for food on the nearby oaks.

The owls are frequently heard at night, deer abound and coyotes pierce the evening quiet. There are otters and white swans in Beaver Rapids where the moving water keeps it ice free. When the sky is clear, the full moon casts silver shadows across the land and the stars are bright. There are social events, music and cultural events in the local villages. Friends and neighbours call and drop in.



Winter is a wonderful time of year on the river.

The Gananoque River Watershed Stewardship Strategy Project, 2013

The final task this summer was delivering the Shoreline Review binders to the residents of Graham and Grippen Lakes. These lakes are at opposite corners of the Gan River Watershed with Graham Lake being in the south east corner almost north of Brockville and Grippen in the north west sector. It was a good time meeting so many people and hearing of their love for each special property. GRWA thanks the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds for all its funding and work the last 4 years.

South Lake still has not received their Shoreline Reviews but they are now ready after having to be redone and then lost & found. They will be delivered in late July this year.

The Watershed Stewardship Project began in 2008 with the leadership and funding from A2A in partnership with CRCA & MNR and lake associations including GRWA. The first two years included water studies which found some endangered species: Grass pickerels in Lower Beverley and an American Eel in Gananoque Lake. But these water studies and the extensive reports were not funded in the last 4 years. However GRWA has a better idea of both the waterways included in GRWA plus tributary lakes including Upper & Lower Beverley, Graham and Killenbeck. The ultimate goal was and is a Watershed Plan updated of the CRCA 1980 one. We had our first exploratory meeting in January 2014.

If you would like a schematic of the Gananoque River Watershed, email a request to President@grwa.ca

The Grief and the Glory of Winter Living along the Waterways

It was minus 20 plus this morning, but a blue sky.

Grief - not being able to start the second car after almost a month of intermittent really cold weather.

Glory - the quiet the tundra swans out in front of our place in December for a few days, the fox who works his way along the road almost every day. the bald eagles, and the birch trees arching over the road and stuck in the middle that we had to drive through when we had the ice storm.

No warmer clime for us this winter - except Kingston to care for kids and seniors.

Liz and Greg



WHAT TO DO AFTER THE WINTER

From Frontenac Arch Biosphere

www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore/fab-trails

PADDLING almost anywhere you want to go

www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore/fab-trails/paddle

Frontenac Arch Paddling Committee

Paddle the Arch Tours Make Waves for Fifth Season

The New Year brings in a wave of good news for the paddling community in the region. Proceeds from the five successful Paddle the Arch Tours last season are now finalized at an even \$1000. This marks the fifth season of the tours, raising awareness and funds for projects that improve regional paddling trails.

"Each tour included Paddle Canada nationally certified instructors, a different route, a Local Flavours lunch, and equipment as needed. Qualified guest speakers rounded out the experience with personal local knowledge.

The highlight was having the honorary patron of the initiative, Dr. James Raffan leading the June tour during the inaugural National Paddling Week. Use of the new paddling station at Seeley's Bay was a close second. Though a challenge to top those, we look forward to another great paddling season."

Supporters wishing to donate, volunteer or register for 2014 initiatives may contact:

Scott 1000islandskayaking.com, or **613 329 6265**

Celia Medcalf, Frontenac Arch Paddling Trails committee. through its [Facebook page](#).

BIKING almost anywhere you want to go except Hwy 15

www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore/fab-trails/cycle

HIKING www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/explore/fab-trails/hike/hiking-trails

Rock Dunder owned by Rideau Waterway Land Trust:

Phone: 613-284-2010 or 1-800-588-9887 Hwy 15 south of Morton turn in on Stanley Lash Lane ; Summit Loop is a 3.9km climb for best panoramic view of the Rideau and the Biosphere

Marble Rock (CRCA) 1-877-956-2722 www.crca.ca

Parking just west of Marble Rock Rd Bridge; medium to challenging levels of difficulty

Jones Creek in 1000 Islands National Park

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/on/lawren/visit/visit4/jonescreek.aspx>

613-923-5261

1270 Thousand Islands Parkway (401 exit 675 or 685)

12-km trail network of easy to difficult trail loops

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Do check The Frontenac Arch Biosphere (FAB) site: <http://www.frontenacarchbiosphere.ca/news-and-events/events/calendar/day/2014>

Lyndhurst 6th Annual Ice Fishing Derby

Open to all Local Lakes Tickets are \$20 / Person
Hosted By: Wing's Live Bait & Tackle
Fish Must Be Fresh to be weighed in at Wing's
Cash & Prizes for each type of Largest Fish
Info: 413-415 Lyndhurst Rd., Lyndhurst, ON K0E 1N0
613-928-2382 siderisjp@sympatico.ca

Apr 19 & 20 47th Annual Maple Syrup Festival Delta Fairgrounds; Sat, 9 to 4 & Sun. 9 to 3.

613-928-2800 or deltafair@ripnet.com www.deltafair.com

NOTA BENE

**Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority has
a new website and email addresses: cra.ca**

ZEBRA MUSSEL testing 2013

No ZM in Grippen or Fodey (Long)

Great work everybody in protecting your waters.
Bonnie had not planned to do the tributary lakes in 2013 but the finding of a zebra mussel, yes just one, made it imperative to do Grippen. Fodey had some rumours of ZM 2 years ago and so this test is the 2nd one to show it is clear.

Jim Johnson who does Red Horse & Singleton not only shared the kit but also supplied a very clean boat & motor and his boating expertise to do both Grippen & Fodey. Thanks Jim.
And thanks to the Invasive Species staff at the ON Federation of Anglers & Hunters who with many partners supply the kit and pay for the tests.

GRIPPEN LAKE CAMP is owed by Infrastructure Ontario. It will not be ready ready to go on sale in in late spring or early summer 2014. Grippen Lake residents are connecting their news and views in a Google group set up by a resident on Camp Lane. If you would like to be apprised of what is happening to the Camp, please email Suzanne smason@fruitbat.ca

Many thanks as always to Jim Penistan who collects the GRWA mail so that it can be picked up even if the Post Office closed.

In new regulations announced by the federal government, the Township will have to start a new process for cellphone companies to consult the public before they install any communications towers. Stay tuned..

For the love of loons



Common Loon



Red-throated Loon



Pacific Loon

Since 1974, my first year on the Gananoque River, I have had this long love-affair with loons. My children call my house and our cottage the “Loonie Bin” because of the many pieces of art depicting loons. These include paintings, sculptures, framed art and photographs from calendars, coasters, posters, placemats and stained glass. Most of it is good art usually prints by well known wildlife artists including Glen Loates, Brenda Carter and Robert Bateman. My favourite is a print, “Loon Flight” by Don Li-Leger. Most of the sculptures are original. One from England is an off-white resin product hand engraved to look like scrimshaw; in England the loon is known as the Great Northern Diver.

On a fabulous trip to the Yukon and Alaska I saw two species of Loon : Red-throated, and Pacific. Later In Churchill, Manitoba we saw these two species nesting. We were never far enough north to see the Arctic or yellow-billed Loons. I guess I should put them on my bucket list.

From May 25 this year my husband and I are going to be on the shores of Meadow Lake Saskatchewan helping some of North America’s most experienced loon scientists. Loons are notoriously difficult for scientists to capture for tagging, blood samples and measuring. But in the oil spill on the Gulf Coast in April 2010, many volunteers helped various bird agencies capture and clean the oil-soaked birds. These salt waters are the winter home for many loons from Saskatchewan; unfortunately not all had left for the northern nesting areas and so loons were among those easily captured, cleaned and after many measurements and sporting tags, they were released to fly north, primarily to SK. (Most of our Gan River Common loons winter in the Atlantic off the shores of the Carolinas and Florida.)

Chronic exposure to petroleum can harm loons and may lead to death from starvation, disease, or predation. This will be the first study in their summer breeding grounds. Researchers hope to get a better idea of how the oil spill may impact not only the loons that lived through it, but also future generations.

Several techniques have been used to capture Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), but effectiveness is limited during periods of the breeding season when loons do not have chicks. From 2005 to 2008, in northern Wisconsin night lighting was used to capture loons on nests and also a lift net for capturing loons prior to nesting. At night, incubating loons were approached by boat and when within about 30–60 m, a spotlight was focused on the loon so that a landing net could be used to capture it. In Saskatchewan these scientists will capture loons in the nesting season by using the tapes of male territorial calls. The loons, hopefully, will come close to the boat in defense of their territory. In addition, taped calls and loon decoys are used to entice pre-nesting, territorial loons into a shoreline-based, lift-net trap. Our diurnal lift-net trap and night-light nest-capture techniques hopefully will allow us to capture adult Common Loons during periods of the breeding season when previous investigators have found loons difficult to catch.

For the most recent and complete information on the state of loons in Canada and the issues facing them, Search for : [The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey 1981-2012 - Bird Studies Canada](#)

Oil and Gas transportation across the Gananoque River

Most of you are aware of the rail tracks, the main line between Toronto, Montreal & Ottawa that passes through the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands just north of HWY 401. Cty Rd 32 passes under the rail bridge which carries the trains over the Gananoque River. You may not realize that 3 pipelines also pass under the Gananoque River north of the rail line. These transportation modes are increasingly making changes to accommodate the increased production of gas and bitumen oil in northern Alberta and in the Bakken fields of North Dakota and Saskatchewan. Enbridge says that sometimes the highly volatile Bakken oil will go through the Line 9.

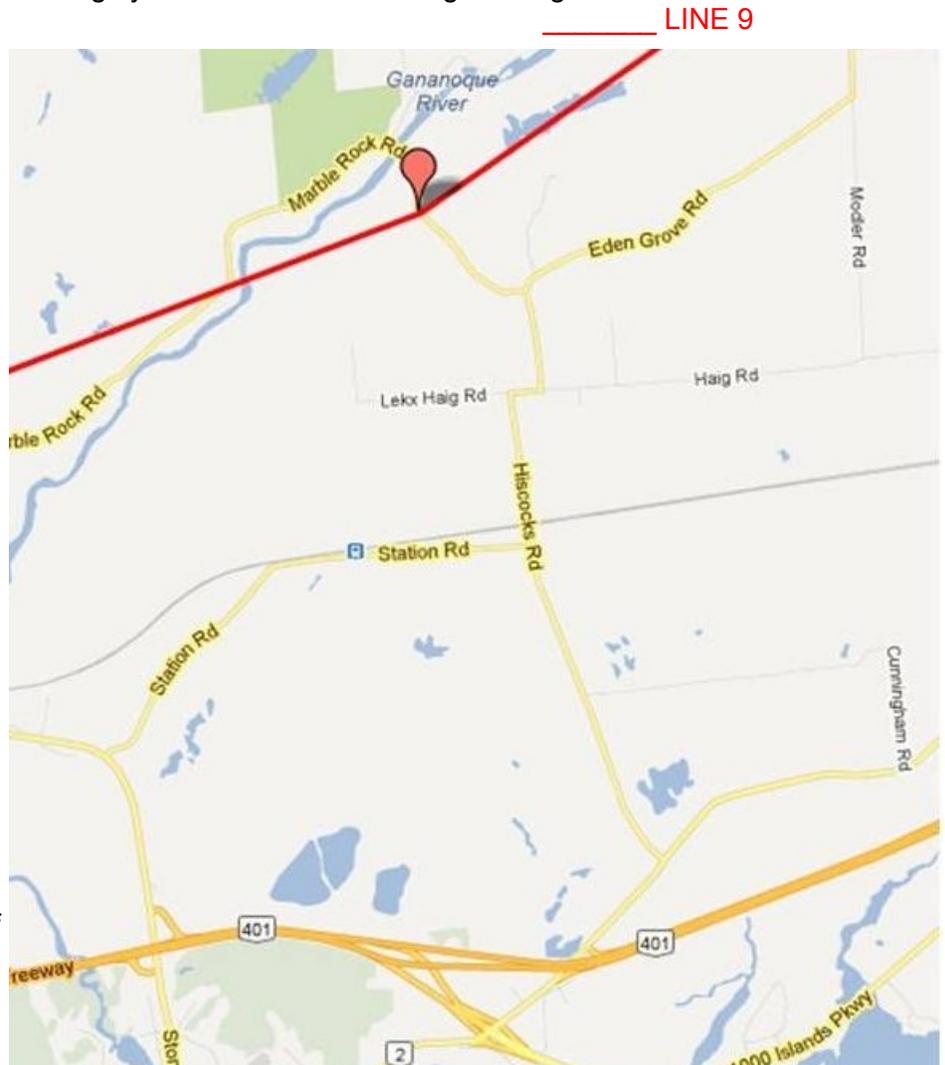
Enbridge has applied to reverse the direction of its pipeline which took offshore crude to Sarnia and now would start to carry Alberta bitumen crude to Montreal. This heavy crude will have highly toxic dilbit in it to increase the fluidity. Unlike conventional crude, dilbit floats briefly in water but then sinks as the light components evaporate, leaving the heavy components behind. This makes cleaning up a dilbit crude spill much more difficult than a conventional oil spill. The cleanup of the Kalamazoo River dilbit crude spill is still underway three years after the event, and officials at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Fishery Division expect that it will "be many more years before the agency can measure the full impact on fish and other animals' reproductive cycles."

Emily Conger is president of the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Collaborative, a conservation group working to protect a region that stretches from Adirondack Park in New York State to Algonquin Provincial Park. This is the most extensive north-south wildlife corridor east of Lake Superior. It hosts one of the highest plant biodiversities in Canada, with 5 overlapping forest systems. In eastern Ontario the UNESCO-designated Frontenac Arch Biosphere is the main part of this corridor.

The environment is a particularly unique and sensitive home to 34 at-risk species. This is why we love it here.

As Emily points out, on this Precambrian Shield, the soil is shallow, a skiff on top of bedrock. That bedrock is replete with cracks that drop down to groundwater aquifers that supply drinking water. The oil would seep through the soil to bedrock and flow along it until it reached the cracks. Then it would drop into the aquifer "almost immediately," she says. According to Enbridge's engineering assessment of the pipeline, filed as part of its application to increase capacity and reverse the flow, the highest concentration of cracks and corrosion are between its Hilton and Cardinal pumping stations. The A2A region falls within that. Enbridge and other pipeline companies say the infrastructure can be used safely "in perpetuity" with proper maintenance but Emily has her doubts. "If you're going to have a pipeline in this area, it seems to me that it has to be at the highest level of safety," says Conger. "And maybe a 38-year-old pipeline is not the best choice. Maybe we should be looking at re-laying the pipeline through this area."

Thus there are huge concerns about Line 9, which is already 38 years old with walls that are only 1/4 inch thick, carrying these toxic oils through an area that is one of the most ecologically rich areas in Canada. Risk reduction must be mandated: lay new pipes, increase & modernize defect detection methods, put stop valves on either side of the watercourses and finally have Emergency Response Plans (ERAPS) coordinated with our Township.



Read more about Line 9 in our area: http://www.thestar.com/projects/pipeline_journey.html



A Winter to Remember

Linda and I are doing great. This is a perfect winter and I can't imagine leaving paradise to go where the weather might be warmer. The only thing is to plan your trips and travel around the weather.

The blizzard on January 27th was certainly a stay-home-day. The above picture from our yard does not do the white-out justice. It was a blue sky blizzard which is rare for southern Ontario.

The current snow squall that has prompted the warning is directed down the St Lawrence and its north shore by a 240 or 250 degree wind off Lake Ontario. A 230 degree wind would be required to point it at Lyndhurst which would limit the over lake fetch and weaken the snow squall and diminish the snow rate.

Warmest regards,
Phil the Forecaster

SNAIL MAILING vs EMAILING

As you are now aware the price of a stamp will rise at the end of March from \$.63 to \$.85, a 30% increase. With postage expenses at about \$150 for a newsletter mailing, this means another \$50 plus 13% HST. The good news is that about 80% of our paid members have emails leaving only about 40 newsletters needing to be mailed. Going to an electronic newsletter would be a substantial reduction in costs & time when you factor in the costs of paper, printing and envelopes and the time needed to fold, stuff, stamp and carry. Best of all you would have the colour that is not affordable in print. **WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON GOING TO EMAIL?**

Connect to voice your opinion on emailing ShoreLines:

613-237-1056 or president@grwa.ca