



# LOON CALL 2011<sup>1</sup>

**LOWER BEVERLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 204 , Delta ON Canada K0E1G0**

**[www.lbla.net](http://www.lbla.net)**

## ***Message from the President***

It seems like the past year has flown by very quickly. So, what did we do in the meantime?

If one major activity was to be picked out, we might call 2010, "The Year of the Binders." Your executive committee, with numerous other volunteers, put a lot of time into delivering individualized Stewardship binders to the many properties around the lake. Concurrently, we distributed copies of the Lake Management Plan which your executive and others worked on for the past few years. If you haven't done so, please take the time to look through these documents. If you haven't received yours, please contact anyone on the executive committee. If you live on Blackjack Island, yours have not yet been distributed due to a minor flooding incident; they will be reprinted and delivered this summer.

In addition to this, we updated the Self-guided tour Brochure and included the Canoesuck, the Eagle Platform and highlights of the Lake Management Plan.

We maintained our traditional and on-going activities. These included the AGM in July, a very successful fish fry in August in place of the usual picnic, placing navigational aids for boating safety, sampling for water quality, monitoring water levels, installing loon nesting platforms, continually improving our website, and putting a prize winning float in the Delta Agricultural Fair parade.

We also participated in the placement of an eagle nesting platform, for which we will hold a dedication ceremony this year. A special event last summer was the sunrise dedication of the Canoesuck, highlighted by a flotilla of paddlers. Many thanks to John Truysens and Lily Faust for making this event a great success.

In 2011, we will pursue our on-going activities. Our application for charitable status has been re-submitted several times and we hope perseverance will reward us since this will enhance our fund raising abilities.

We need your ideas about setting priorities for implementing the Lake Management Plan action items. For instance, we might consider increased emphasis on water quality monitoring, with a goal of reducing our phosphorus levels below 15 ppb. Much of this reduction could be possible through the elimination of detergents and other products containing phosphorus. We also hope to gather more information on some former landfill sites that may be impacting lake water quality.

Finally, there will be opportunities for new members to come on to the executive committee. Please consider getting involved, and/or making recommendations for potential candidates. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Dave Champagne, President, LBLA

## ***"EAGLE MAN" to be honoured***

Many prominent people have resided on Lower Beverley Lake, and Charles Broley was one of them. It can actually be said that he "soared with the eagles"! The Broley family lived at one end of Whiskey Island where we can still see the white cottage Charles Broley acquired in 1913 when he was a banker in Delta. Following his retirement in 1939, Charles Broley became widely known in Canada and the United States as the "Eagle Man" when he began to band and study bald eagles: by the age of 80 he had banded over 1000 of these birds, climbing by rope ladder up lofty trees to reach their nests. It was he who first sounded the alarm about DDT, realizing that this widely used pesticide was responsible for the increasing sterility of the mature birds. Most of his work was done in Florida, but he also dealt with several eyries in the Lower Beverley Lake area. Life Magazine ran a full photo feature on Charles Broley and the National Geographic produced a documentary on his impressive work with eagles. His wife, Myrtle, was a well-known author and his daughter, Jeanne Broley Patric, still summers on the lake and publishes stories and poems.

At **2pm on August 6, 2011** near Blue Heron Point (#26 in the Self-guided tour brochure) the Lower Beverley Lake Association will inaugurate its first eagle platform and dedicate it to the memory of Charles Broley. It is only fitting that we encourage eagles to nest where the Eagle Man once soared!

This ceremony will be followed by the

**annual LBLA picnic from 3 to 7pm  
at Kendrick's Park.**

Please come out to honour the Eagle Man and to enjoy meeting friends at the annual LBLA picnic!



## ***DOCK GARAGE SALE***

Cottagers are no different from city dwellers in their uncanny ability to amass objects— or should we say "collectibles". This summer you will have the opportunity to sell and purchase some previously-owned treasures.

On **Saturday July 2nd**, to let people know you are participating in this event, just

**TIE BALLOONS TO YOUR DOCK between 10am and 3pm**

and display your priced goods as close to your dock as possible.

If your docking situation is not the best, consider sharing space on a neighbour's dock. This should be a fun way to meet people and to bring home some great loot!

PS: Don't let your balloons become "rogue" balloons: dispose of them ecologically, please!

## Delta Agricultural Fair Parade

For 3 years running, the Lower Beverley Lake Association has won first prize for its float in the Delta Fair parade! Lynne Jeffries was responsible for our 2010 entry on a Hawaiian theme and we wish to congratulate her and her volunteers: "Aloha everyone!" Well done!

The 2011 parade theme is "Music from the '70's". We need some volunteers who can remember that far

back to come up with another prize-winning float! Remember the '70's? Simon & Garfunkel, Dolly Parton, the Jackson 5, Roberta Flack...just to name a few. Or how about "American Pie"? Or "The way we were"?

Now is your turn to display your creativity! Contact the LBLA and volunteer your time and ideas!



Check our Website [www.LBLA.net](http://www.LBLA.net) to view more pictures of the float and other 2010 special events

## LBLA Links up

The LBLA pursues its links with these organizations and represents you:

- Frontenac Arch Biosphere
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA)
- Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxes (WRAFT)
- Frontenac Arch Paddling Association
- The Delta Mill Society
- Algonquin to Adirondack A2A

## LBLA Executive Committee & Volunteers

- Dave Champagne, President
- Dave Johnson, Vice President
- Lily Faust, Past President
- Barb Kirkham, Secretary
- Betty Penstone, Treasurer
- Earl Patric, Director at Large
- Lynne Jeffries, Director at Large

We are also very grateful to our auditor Ed Van Voorhis, our web master Brian Jeffries, and to our many volunteers! Thank you so much!

## Ripples Through Time

Buy our history book **'Ripples Through Time, Memories of Lower Beverley Lake'** at the Delta Stone Mill, or at Bob's Diner in Delta. It will answer all your questions about the lake history and place names and lots more!

## Where your money goes...

Along with your LBLA annual registration fee, many of you generously contribute to the local fire and rescue services. The LBLA received a letter of thanks this January from the Rideau Lakes Fire and Rescue folks. Our contribution will assist them in purchasing a portable fire extinguisher training unit to help train firefighters in the community.

Let's hope it saves homes and lives  
– and that you will never need it!



## LBLA 2011 Summer Events

### Mark these events in your summer calendar:

- **Saturday, July 2**      **Dock Garage Sale at docks with balloons**  
10 am to 3pm
- **Wednesday, July 6:**      **LBLA 2011 Annual General Meeting**  
6:30pm at the Delta Fair building, refreshments served
- **Saturday July 23:**      **Delta Fair Parade: theme is "Music from the '70's"**
- **Thursday, July 28 :**      **Clean Up the Lake Day**  
10 am meet at Delta Creek boat ramp, pizza lunch provided
- **Saturday, August 6:**      2 pm **Dedication of the eagle platform**, #26 on the Self-guided tour brochure  
3 - 7 pm **annual LBLA picnic at Kendrick's Park**, #25 on the Self-guided tour brochure  
**Bring a dish to the picnic to share!**



## On the subject of eagles....

*Adapted from the Recorder and Times, January 2011*

**As we prepare to inaugurate the first eagle nesting platform at Blue Heron Point this summer, the LBLA thought you might like to know more about these fine creatures:**

Magnificent bald eagles used to soar above the Thousand Islands region into the 1930s. But pollution and encroaching human populations almost eliminated the birds from our midst. Their recent re-introduction to the area after more than 70 years can be taken as a sign that our ecosystem is recovering, scientists say. In a motion of hospitality, local scientists and volunteers are putting up platforms for their nesting needs.

From 1937 to 1999 not a single pair of eagles nested in the Thousand Islands area, said Bud Andress, the co-chairman of the St. Lawrence Bald Eagle Working Group. Now three pairs of eagles have been discovered nesting here and rearing their young, he reported.

In the winter months, bald eagles migrate south, but approximately 100 of the bald-headed raptors arrive here for the winter after migrating south from James Bay, the Eastern Townships in Quebec, and Labrador. The St. Lawrence River offers optimal terrain and open water and plenty of feeding opportunity.

"When we saw wintering eagles in the 1980s we got very excited, which led to recording hundreds of sightings," said Andress, considered an eagle expert devoted to the growth of the eagle population in the area. "It was not until 1999 that the first nesting pair of eagles was discovered, and since then, we have found two more nesting pairs."

The working group, the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources, Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan and the Leeds and Grenville Stewardship Council have been developing a habitat conservation strategy to identify, prioritize and protect valuable bald eagle habitats in the Lake Ontario and upper St. Lawrence River Basin and establish bald eagle restoration goals and objectives.

Other scientists, geographers and organizations such as Bird Studies Canada, Parks Canada, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Canada Wilderness Services have partnered with the working group to identify and conserve important eagle habitats. Suitable habitat sites were located including some within St. Lawrence Islands National Park and the area from Landon Bay eastward to Jones Creek.

With help from volunteers and tree climbers, the Leeds and Grenville County Stewardship Council has been building bald eagle nesting platforms for the past five years in Gananoque Lake, Charleston Lake, Red Horse Lake, Lower Beverley Lake and along the St. Lawrence River.

Volunteers work on installations, clearing areas, scouting to find ideal trees and taking photos of the platforms. "I keep an eye on the eagles to see where they nest and if they do take the platforms," said Andress.

Cary Gibson, owner and climbing arborist for Gibson Tree Care, has worked with the stewardship council to install the platforms. "I use a special, non-invasive technique that is called a doubled-rope technique, which doesn't use spines so it protects the tree from becoming suspect to insect or fungus infestation in

open wounds," said Gibson. "In short, I make certain that I don't damage the tree and I can access areas without need for a boom truck," said Gibson.

Eagles desire height to maintain a clear view from cliffs and tall trees for hunting and foraging, and they need to live near open water for fishing and in a vicinity of little human contact. They like to take advantage of other hunters such as ospreys and gulls or even go after dead fish that wash up on the shore. They are masters at thievery and steal from other birds all the time.

The nests are started with a wire mesh frame and then built up with ground sticks into a rough nest shape. "Once I install it in a premier location, the work is half done for the eagles, who will do the rest of the work," said Gibson. The platform is quite big, about nine feet (three metres) in diameter. He can also quietly climb up to the nest for maintenance and if need be, borrow an eaglet out of the nest to carefully and safely place a transmitter for satellite telemetry, without disturbing the eagles. "It is a myth that eagles will abandon their young if they smell that a human touched them," said Gibson. "Birds don't have a sense of smell."

Several young eaglets in the area have already been banded with transmitters. It takes four years for a juvenile to reach adulthood and display the full white head and tail feathers.

People are encouraged to take pleasure in the sight of the eagles and to respect them by keeping at a distance and not making noise. To report eagle sightings, contact the local stewardship council, a Ministry of Natural Resources office or Bird Studies Cana-

## Water Quality

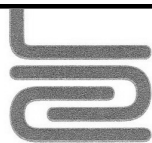
**WATER CLARITY:** About 20% of Ontario lakes are classified as "enriched" (high in nutrients) with poor clarity (less than three metres) due to high rainfall and lake levels resulting in watershed runoff and flushing of nutrients into the water system. Consistent high LBL water levels in 2010 showed fewer algal blooms. Seasonal average clarity measurements have improved since 1998, and except for Oak Bay [Whitefish Lake/Morton Creek inlet], LBL has plateaued just above the threshold of "moderately enriched" (greater than 3 metres clarity) since 2003 and enjoys the best water clarity levels recorded. LBL 2010 test site averages at Kendrick Bay and Black Jack Island were above 3 metres and in the "moderately enriched" category, while Oak Bay fell just below in the "enriched" category.

**PHOSPHORUS & ALGAL LEVEL:** LBL total phosphorus (TP) measurements indicate we hover around the "enriched" threshold where blue/green algal blooms are expected to occur. Results have been mostly consistent over the last five years, with Kendrick Bay continuing to fall below the "moderately enriched" breakpoint, Black Jack Island just at the breakpoint, and Oak Bay continues to be classified as "enriched".

**ZEBRA MUSSELS:** There is Zebra Mussel activity in all areas sampled in LBL, but no indication of the Spiny Water Fleas spreading into inland waterways from the Great Lakes.

**OVERVIEW:** Total phosphorus sample data for Upper Beverley Lake [major input source during spring/summer seasons] are measurably better than any sample sites in LBL. Data from Whitefish Lake [spring inflow from the Rideau water system through Morton Creek into Oak Bay] is also better than LBL, but TP levels in 2010 spiked at the Whitefish Lake Rock Dundar/Morton Bay site to a level above LBL test sites except Oak Bay. This suggests water quality in LBL is not a function of inflow from other water bodies, but lake sensitivity to rainfall/watershed runoff, property development, agriculture, etc. LBL measurements have improved, but the Ministry of the Environment has indicated that both clarity and total phosphorus measurements are generally improving in most Ontario locations. MOE feels this is likely due to soil chemistry changes and rainfall trends, rather than changes in human activity in the watersheds.

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### Lower Beverley Lake Water Levels

A water level monitoring program was established several years ago. John Truyens currently manages this program for LBLA.

The chart compares water level fluctuations collected by John Truyens in both 2009 and 2010.

