



**DEVIL
LAKE**
ASSOCIATION
OF FRONTENAC COUNTY

2026 President's Spring Update

19 April 2026

Dear Fellow Members,

I write to you following the Spring Board Meeting of the DLA, held via Zoom on Thursday, April 16. We covered a lot of items, and in retrospect having a lake association seems increasingly important to Devil Lake. Through your support, the DLA continues to represent its members in fulfilling its objectives, namely;

- uniting all persons interested in the conservation of water quality, flora and fauna, and the natural beauties of Devil Lake, Frontenac County, Ontario;
- gathering and exchanging ideas, data and statistical, scientific, horticultural and botanical information;
- promoting the protection and appreciation of the environment

As we move towards our 6th year as an Association, your engagement is critical to the success of DLA, with many challenges ahead. News from the lake is that the ice is out, loons are arriving, and wildflowers slowly emerging. Spring is such a beautiful time of the year!

Membership

In 2025, our membership, for the first time, surpassed 100 members. This is an important achievement for DLA, and let's all help out in growing membership further. Speaking of, if I could kindly ask everyone to please renew your membership for 2025, and encourage your neighbours, and others, to join the Association. DLA only exists because of you and your continued support and interest! Let's keep our positive momentum, and not get complacent especially given the important initiatives the Association continues to undertake. Membership dues are unchanged from last year and details for joining/renewing are on the website, www.devillake.org .

2026 AGM

The date for the 2025 AGM has been set for Saturday, July 25 at 2pm. Roger and Tony Jones have kindly offered to hold the AGM at their house. We are firming up our guest speaker and will sent more details in due course. Just a gentle reminder that you need to be a DLA member in good standing to attend and vote at the AGM.

Please consider joining the DLA Board! Terms are just 2 years and it is a great way for you to give back to the lake we all love!! Let me thank our current Board for the time it volunteers on your behalf. The Board is 12 strong, representing all parts of the lake and includes both permanent and seasonal residents. Should you like to volunteer, please let me or another Board member know!

DLA Board

Roger Brice (Perth Road), Tim Gardiner (President) (Perth Road), John Gray (Mill Pond), Chuck Higgins (Hardwood Bay), Tony Jones (Treasurer) (Perth Road), Dave Little (Green's Bay), Cecil Lyons (Buce Bay), Hugo MacKenzie (Perth Road & Group of Islands), Tom Myatt (Buce Bay), Andrew Perrett (Secretary) (General member, Kingston), Ingrid Sauve (WDLPOG liaison) (Head of the Lake), and Jana Svec (Perth Road).

Financial Position

I am pleased to report that your Association continues to be financially strong, with over \$17,000 in net assets. A big thank you to Tony Jones for overseeing our finances and a lot of admin(!), and Chuck Higgins for making sure our bylaws and registrations are what are required by the Province of Ontario.

Invasive Species Removal

Following on from the Reports from Queen's University Biology regarding the Littoral Region of the Lake, the Board is moving forward to look for solutions to remove aquatic invasive species around the lake. With no federal/provincial/local laws regarding boat decontamination before launching on Devil Lake, invasive species look to be DLA's most challenging issue going forward. I have attached a map as a separate PDF at the end of this Update showing what was found, and where. As you will note, this is a "Pan Devil Lake" problem.

Your Board has conditionally authorized up to \$5,000 to go towards invasive species removal. The problem is finding qualified companies to do the work. We are reaching out to Queen's,

Watershed Canada, Conservation Ontario and other organizations for suggestions. We have a couple of leads but need your help should you have recommendations.

We will be once again engaging Conservation Ontario this Summer to give us an in person tutorial on removal of invasive aquatic species along your shoreline, will be providing education materials for you to read. We have installed new Clean/Drain/Dry signs at the Perth Road boat ramp, and have offered additional signage to the WDLPOG and Tett Lane ramps.

Finally, I note we have not posted the Lake Littoral Region Reports to the website - my apologies. You may remember the study was made possible by a South Frontenac Lake Eco-System grant. We will get that done, and also make more use of the website for invasive species education.

Coalition for Innovative Fisheries Conservation (CIFC) - Bass Spawning Sanctuaries (BaSSs)

Last year, your Board announced that DLA was joining the CIFC, paving the way for biologists to begin assessing the health of the bass population that would lead towards the setting up of BaSS in future. This is an extremely exciting initiative for DLA!

Overseen by Dr Dave Philipp (our AGM speaker last year) and Dr. Steven Cooke, Professor of Fish Ecology and Conservation Physiology, Carleton University, the CIFC is set up to bring together lake associations interested in innovative strategies for fish conservation “to improve and maintain the abundance of fish and the quality of recreational fishing”.

CIFC will again be collecting baseline data of potential areas on Devil Lake this Summer, and we expect BaSS to be set up perhaps next year, pending MNR approvals. The CIFC is now over 20 local lake associations strong, data is showing that setting up BaSS leads to significant improvements to the bass population, and momentum continues. In spite of frustrations with MNR, I believe this to be an important step for Devil Lake.

Dam Repairs, Bedford Mills / Buttermilk Falls and Water Levels

Thank you, members, for your patience the past couple of years as Portage Power made Fall repairs to the Bedford Mills / Buttermilk Falls dam. The repairs are now complete and a final “test” of the dam will be performed in May.

Water levels are currently quite high but the dam is now partially open and levels will begin to drop after the middle of May.

Frontenac Provincial Park Trail Maintenance - Gibson Lake “The Litsky” Loop

In 2023, DLA volunteered to help with trail maintenance in Frontenac Provincial Park. Since then, we have looked after the Gibson Lake Loop, affectionately known as the Litsky Loop in honour of Dave Little who oversees this initiative. We walk the trail at least once a month from April thru October, clearing it of brush and tree limbs, fixing trail markers and notifying Park staff of needed maintenance. <https://www.ontarioparks.com/pdf/maps/frontenac/frontenac-park-overview-2022.pdf> This 11km loop passes through lakes and wetlands following the contour of Hardwood Bay and the head of the lake towards the Kingsford Dam.

Dave is looking for DLA volunteers to help this Summer and Fall. If interested, please contact Dave at davidjwlittle@gmail.com - he also plans to organize monthly Litsky Loop hikes over the Summer. It is a fun way for the Devil Lake community to give back to the Park, and it's such a beautiful part of the Frontenac Arch! As a reminder, FPP makes up over 10% of our lake's shoreline.

Water Testing

Barb Fisher continues to head up our annual water testing, and a thank you to Judy Wilson for helping Barb this coming summer. Since 2020, DLA has been testing 5 locations on the lake (Salmon Island, Parker Bay, Perth Road boat ramp, entrance to Buce Bay, and the Mill Pond), supplementing the 3 locations done towards the head of the lake by the West Devil Lake Property Owners Group. WDLPOG has asked DLA to take over its 3 locations so this year DLA will be supervising all 8 locations on the lake. Thank you Barb, and Judy!! BIG task, so fundamental to staying on top of our water metrics.

We send our samples and clarity data to Ontario's "Lake Partner Program", supervised by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks. Overall, past results have been trending stable / trending positively.

DLA Swag

We will be sending our out order forms for DLA swag later in May/early June so we can order in advance of the AGM.

Spring Clean Up the Lake Day

We will be doing a Spring clean up of Devil Lake Crown Land shoreline, the 3 Crown Land campsites, the Perth Road boat ramp, Perth Road culvert, etc. Schultz Gordon and Jeff Milne are heading this up and will be looking for volunteers! Date tbd but towards the end of May - separate email to follow! South Frontenac's assistance in hauling the garbage we pick up is so

appreciated! Since we started the Fall/Spring clean ups, the amount collected continues to decline but always present. Styrofoam still an issue.

Other Items

- St Stephen's Church, Bedford Mills, plans to begin Summer services in July. Hats off to the restoration efforts of that part of Devil Lake history!
- South Frontenac will be holding a Fire Safety Awareness event May 9 10am - 1pm. It is for Cottage and Lake Assn's so if you like to attend representing DLA, there is a link to RSVP; <https://bit.ly/4tJ5Tmo>
- Speaking of South Frontenac, the township does a very good job in regular communications. If you are not signed up, please do! communications@southfrontenac.net
- The Highway 10 bridge at Bedford Mills / Loon Lake will be under construction this Summer. One lane closures are to be expected.
- The DLA Facebook page continues with +300 members. Thank you to Matt Bain who helps maintain all our virtual info!!

That's it for now! As always, let me know if you have questions or suggestions. Thank you for making a difference and please continue your support by growing our membership!

All the best - see you at the lake!!

Tim Gardiner