

Full Authority
16 September 2021
Agenda Item: 14

General Manager's Report

Background

The General Manager's report provides a brief update for the Board Members prior to the Board meeting bringing forward additional information and/or progress on initiatives or current issues for the Board members consideration.

Watershed Management

Current Watershed Conditions

- Most watershed lake levels continue to remain at seasonal summer recreational levels. Only one or two lakes have dipped below the targeted engineered level in the past 7 to 10 days.
- Significant precipitation totals from the end of June to the middle of August has resulted in an unusual number of stop log adjustments this summer. Generally, the rainfall ensured lakes rarely dipped below the targeted summer elevations.
- Rainfall totals at Belmont Lake from June to August are 10.6" and Glen Alda gauge 11.8"
- Complaints this season usually focused on water levels being too high. Cordova Lake seemed to be the lake with the most concerns this year, which is a rarity for that lake.
- As stated in the June report, the Marmora Hydro plant is normally shutdown at the beginning of the summer and not restarted until either the fall draw down begins or rains arrive more consistently in the fall. This summer, the hydro plant has had a banner year, with flows approaching spring like conditions in July and remaining high for the majority of the summer months.

Anticipated Conditions

- The CVCA fall draw down of lake levels will commence mid-September with the removal of stop logs from the Paudash Lake dam. This lake is drawn down at this time to winter level to ensure the lake trout spawn is not adversely affected.
- Based on current weather patterns and normal lake levels for this time of year, staff do not anticipate any issues or concerns with the draw down.
- staff are anticipating at least an average drawdown (in terms of flow rates and timing). Staff aim to gradually drawdown lake levels to allow cottagers and residents an opportunity to enjoy summer recreational levels for as long as possible and eliminate the “shock” of having lakes suddenly lowered.

Marmora and Belmont Dams

- Boom log barriers were reconnected during the summer for public boating and swimming safety.
- Two of the safety booms had to be replaced at the Marmora Dam location and there were some difficulties reconnecting the boom at Belmont Dam.
- Three days were required to complete the task. O.D.S. Marine were hired to do the work on behalf of the CVCA.
- The Belmont Dam will need to have the boom removed before freeze up to avoid winter damage from high flows and ice.

Water Erosion Control Infrastructure Status Update

- The WECI project for the Crowe Bridge Weir Review was approved. Due to high flows, the engineer has not been able to access the weir to begin conducting their report. Staff have contacted the engineer and advised them flows have receded to seasonal norms. Staff are now waiting for a site inspection date to be determined by the engineer.

Conservation Areas Update

McGeachie Conservation Area

- The re-opening ceremony of the new and improved trails at McGeachie is scheduled for the 24th of September and is to be held in conjunction with the Eagles Nest improvements in Bancroft. This is a result of the efforts by the Hastings Destination Trails Committee and the North Hastings Economic Development Committee over the past year and a half.
- The event is currently scheduled from 11:00 to 12:30

Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area

- Barriers have been built across the illegal path along the Crowe River to discourage the use of ATV's. The barriers have been built using natural materials, primarily old logs and vegetation. The barriers are approximately four feet high, stretch across the width of the path and have been woven into live trees and vegetation along the path.
- To date, the barriers have not been tampered with or torn down and have been serving their purpose.
- With the barriers in place, attention has now turned to the next step in repairing the environmental damage and limiting ATV activity.
- The ATVs had created long sections of the path which had been dug down to bedrock. In some places this was 12 to 18" deep. Marc Forget proposed using natural vegetative matter to replace the bog like soil. This will speed up the healing process, stabilize the soil banks on either side of the path and show the importance of the rehabilitation to the public.
- Fortunately, the CVCA has a ready supply of this type of material required. Cattail mats have washed on shore on many properties on Crowe Lake and are decomposing. Marc and CVCA staff when available to assist, have collected this material and are using it at Callaghan's. This has been a true win win scenario, as the material is taken from personal property owners who wish to see it removed and placed at a location where it is desperately needed.
- The work is currently ongoing since it will require approximately 50 to 60 small trailer loads.

- In addition to this phase of work, a local contractor has been selected to place a barrier around the parking lot. The lot will be expanded slightly to allow two rows of parked cars, maintain the turnaround area for municipal vehicles (grator, garbage truck, etc.) and the school bus. It will also provide access for emergency vehicles to turn around easily as well, although appropriate signage will be required to reduce the possibility of people parking and blocking the location.

Administration

- The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten.
- As you may be aware, the government recently passed legislation to make September 30th a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Like all Canadians, this day provides an opportunity for each public servant to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. This may present itself as a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.
- The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will become a designated paid holiday and will allow employees in the federal public service to observe and participate in this important day starting September 2021.
- The statutory holiday would allow for staff an opportunity to educate themselves about Canada's genocide, reflect on their personal role to reconciliation and decide whether to participate in some manner on the day.

CVCA staff are requesting Board direction whether to recognize this day as a paid statutory holiday or not and how the CVCA should honour survivors, their families and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools becomes a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Board Decision

Miscellaneous

- Lighting improvements in the office have been 95% completed.