

## Water Levels on Belmont Lake – Dealing with Fluctuating Levels

The water level of Belmont Lake has fluctuated considerably over the past eight years. The recent 2009 summer level was at the high end, well beyond the established levels set for our lake. Conversely, in 2002 and 2003 we had unacceptable low levels. Prior to this time period the lake, with some weather exceptions, was managed at a consistent level. As directed at our AGM, the BLCA board has communicated to Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) our desire to see the lake managed at a predictable level and in the range that was established in the 1960's and reconfirmed in 1983.

High water levels have been reported as causing damage to shorelines and low-lying fire roads. Erosion of the shore in turn enriches the lake, negatively affecting fish spawning and overall water quality. Deteriorating water quality was identified to the BLCA board as the single most important lake issue to pursue.

Ongoing loss of wetland habitat and increased pressure on our water supply due to development will increase the variability of water levels. The Crowe watershed has very thin soil coverage and is therefore inherently more difficult to manage during periods of extreme weather. CVCA does indeed have a difficult task at hand when trying to maintain a stable lake level!

**\*\* Plan your dock for a return to normal levels:** The summer 2009 water level is unsustainable and is well out of range of the normal limits; assume lower levels when planning dock and waterline work (and of course be sure to consult CVCA for any dock or shoreline work). The set summer level is approximately 13" below the level that the lake was at on July 1, 2009. Floating docks are an excellent way to deal with this issue and in general have the least impact on the marine habitat.

**\*\* Reduce wakes:** The shoreline is very sensitive to boat wakes when the water is at a high level; keep this in mind when operating a boat close to shore, or when operating in a manner that will produce a large wake.

**\*\* Stabilize the shore:** Improve the stability of your shoreline through healthy shoreline habits such as planting or protecting shoreline shrubbery and native plants. These efforts will help reduce shoreline erosion during periods of high water.

**\*\* Support the CVCA:** Crowe Valley Conservation Authority is jointly funded by Provincial and Municipal governments. Let our politicians know that it is important that this organization be properly funded and supported. CVCA's work is key to the ongoing recreational and habitat "value" of Belmont Lake.

Beginning mid-June we will update the water level readings at our website using data from the CVCA. 



**CHEVROLET** **CMT**

## AUGUST 19 - 22, 2010



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YOAKAM



GRETCHEN  
WILSON



TANYA  
TUCKER



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SKAGGS

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**MARK CHESNUTT ★ DOC WALKER ★ PATTY LOVELESS**  
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