



**UPPER RIDEAU  
LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**2025-26 Directors' Reports**

## Treasurer's Report

*Barb Cook*

This year has been another busy year for the Association. The board approved a budget of expenses in excess of revenues to draw down excess funds. This drawdown of excess funds will continue for initiatives that are within our mandate until the excess funds are at a reasonable level.

Members are advised to take note on page 1 of the financial statements of the "Notice to Readers" Report to remind everyone that the statements presented are unaudited.

On page 2, being the Statement of Financial Position shows current assets, being cash of \$10,701 and \$10,041 in a restricted GIC, which is an overall decrease of \$398 from the previous year. The cash includes an amount of \$ 1,341, a bequest remaining from Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation, to be used for major repairs or replacements of the Buoy System on the Lake.

You may recall that the \$10,041 had been internally restricted in 2024 by the Board for specific use for a period of three years ending April 30, 2027. The specific use is identified for professional, legal or educational services related to the Waste Water Treatment options considered by the Village of Westport that could have an environmental impact on the Upper Rideau Lake.

The prepaid grant revenue is our annual Grant from Rideau Lakes Township, received in April 2026. It applies to our next fiscal year.

On page 4, the Statement of Operations is a summary of our revenue and operating expenses. Please note the following changes from the previous year's results including the following:

### **Revenue**

- Our membership decreased over the prior year, but we received quite a number of memberships in May and June 2026, which will be reflected in next year's financial statements, due to the timing of collection.

- Grant revenue includes \$2,341 from Rideau Lakes Township, which we used to cover operating expenses and apply funds to the Save the Bass initiative
- Included in Other Revenue is \$839 from the Tree Program, plus miscellaneous sales of logo wear

## Expenses

### *Operating expenses:*

- Overall, our operating expenses increased by approximately \$1,400 over the prior year. Our license fee per member to the Federation of Cottagers Association increased again in 2026 and included in office expenses is the cost of having our own Zoom account.

### *Program expenses: see attached report.*

- Of more interest is the programs we supported in the 2025/2026 season.
- We incurred tree costs of \$784 for the tree and shrub program, which includes tree costs and banking fees.
- We repaired buoys and chains for a total cost of \$675, which was considered normal repairs, not major repair or replacement, which is funded by the RLEF grant.
- As part of our *Species at Risk* initiatives, we launched the *Save the Bass* education program and purchased membership signage at a cost of \$1,469. Public relations materials were purchased as giveaways to trade shows and as thank-you gifts to volunteers.
- A contribution of \$600 was made to the Foley Mountain Conservation Authority to cover the cost of buses from the schools for the attendance of young children to attend Forest School.
- Additional logo wear was purchased, and items are available for sale. Some will be provided to volunteers as thank-you gifts.

We have already begun programming in the current year and will start on the priorities identified in our strategic plan. Continued support through memberships and with the aid of our funding partners allows us to offer these initiatives.

**Report of Program Expenses**  
*For the year ended April 30, 2026*

<b>Program expenses</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Tree program	\$784	\$994	\$1,175
Logowear	\$1730	\$0	\$1,985
Buoy Maintenance	\$301	\$290	\$544
Swale planting and sign	\$0	\$829	\$952
Turtle protectors	\$0	\$275	\$371
Invasive species	\$0	\$235	\$59
Species at Risk - Bass Signage	\$1469	\$0	\$0
Ecofest	\$0	\$78	\$105
Foley Mountain school program	\$500	\$500	\$500
Public relations materisl	\$608	\$578	\$465
Water testing	\$0	\$128	
Educational	\$0	\$200	
	<b>\$5,767</b>	<b>\$4,107</b>	<b>\$6,156</b>

Financial statements are available at <https://www.upperideau.com/2026-agm>

# Lakeshore Director Report

Tom Donnelly

## 2026 Tree Program Update

Thanks to the generous support of our partner organizations and the enthusiastic participation of URLA members, the Upper Rideau Lake Association held another successful tree sale on May 2, 2026. The event was a practical and meaningful way for members to take direct action in support of a healthier shoreline and a stronger lake community.

## Habitat Restoration & Lake Water Quality Improvement

For more than a decade, URLA members have shown their commitment to protecting and enhancing the shoreline of Upper Rideau Lake. Every tree and shrub planted helps restore habitat, preserve water quality, and strengthen the natural buffer that protects the lake. By choosing indigenous trees and shrubs, property owners help reduce nutrient runoff and make a lasting contribution to the long-term health of the ecosystem we all share.

## Membership Participation

On Saturday, May 2, members gathered at the North Crosby Community Centre to pick up saplings, potted shrubs, and trees for planting around their properties. The strong turnout reflected the shared pride and sense of responsibility that URLA members feel for caring for Upper Rideau Lake, one shoreline planting at a time.

## 2026 Tree & Shrub Sales

Category	Quantity
Bareroot Trees & Shrubs (10-seedling bundles)	280
Potted Shrubs	43
Potted Trees	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>

Potted shrubs were especially popular this year, with Red Osier Dogwood, Northern Bush Honeysuckle, and Steeplebush among members' top choices. Potted tree sales were driven by strong demand for Eastern White Cedar and Sugar Maple, both valued additions to a resilient, natural shoreline.

## **Acknowledgments**

We extend our sincere thanks to our friends at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), Meaghan McDonald and Brandon Holden, whose generous support continues to be instrumental to the success of our Tree Program. We also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation. Most importantly, thank you to the URLA members who purchased, planted, and cared for these trees and shrubs—your efforts are helping shape a healthier future for Upper Rideau Lake.

## **Membership Director Report**

*Peggy Thompson*

As of June 19, 2026, the Upper Rideau Lake Association (URLA) is pleased to report the following URLA membership statistics:

- 85 paid memberships for 2026 year to date
- 18 paid memberships for 2027 year to date

## **Communications Director**

*Steve Moretti*

- Five Newsletters and updates were sent out to URLA members and others interested in the lake association since the last Annual General Meeting in July 2025.
- A variety of blog posts were written by URLA board members, posted to our blog, and distributed on Facebook and other social media.
- The URLA Facebook Page added a steady stream of new members, now totalling 1,100 as of July 3.
- Many members of the URLA Facebook group were active in posting news and information about the lake and lake health.

## Secretary / Governance

*Patti Muir*

- A Board planning session was held in January to review and update tasks for 2026.
- An in-person AGM with a live stream was planned. Several AGM planning working group meetings were held, to which the Secretary provided administrative and planning support.
- In addition to the January Board planning meeting, five Board meetings were held throughout the 2025- 2026 year, to which the Secretary provided administrative and planning support.

## Water Quality

*Dave Counter*

- In late September 2025 the lake was at its lowest level in years. Some of the Hazard Buoys were removed by walking to them and dragging them back to the boat
- We continue to assist the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in conducting monthly water sampling around the lake. URLA is providing the boat and a volunteer, while RVCA provides the equipment and sampling technicians.
- In the Fall of 2024 the Bioswale at the foot of Bedford St. in Westport was transferred to the Village of Westport for annual maintenance. The village has not maintained the swale and we removed the educational sign.

- We continue to fund both Village of Westport schools with field trips to Foley Mountain.
- The shoal markers are set out before the May long weekend, inspected in July and removed after the Thanksgiving weekend. This Spring when the ice left the lake it removed poor old Snake Island. It is now Snake Shoal and marked with 2 Hazard Markers.

**Please use extra caution when you are boating in the area of Snake Shoal**

- The 2026 water quality focus will be on the stormwater runoff from the Village of Westport. We hope to help the village with natural stormwater filtration.