



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2007/8

SEASONS GREETINGS

Message from the Chair

As I sit here thinking what to write about, I see that our lake, Palette, is frozen over. How long that will last remains to be seen. For those of you planning to go, or have already gone south, I wish you a pleasant and enjoyable winter. For those of you staying behind, I hope you look forward to winter as much as I do.

As of our AGM last August, I have again taken the helm of the HLC as Chair. Burr Atkinson is my Vice/Chair and Secretary while Bruce Howlett is my Treasurer. Together, the three "B"s form the HLC Executive. Our thanks to Mary McCulley and Elaine Jackson for their past contribution as Co-chairs.

I would like to welcome some new faces to the Board of Directors -

- Tonia DiSabatino, Oxbow Lake Cottager's Association
- Michael Young, Hidden Valley Property Owners Association
- Wendy Olan, Bittern Lake Association
- Ian Hastie, Lake Vernon Association
- Ted Mercer, Otter Lake Association
- Bill Jolley, Buck Lake Ilfracombe Association
- Morris Eccles, Lake of Bays Association

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Yuri Zadoroznyj from Bittern Lake Association who had to resign due to ill health. Our best goes out to you, Yuri. And to John Kenny of Lake of Bays Association who had to resign due to a physical disability which prevents him from taking an active role as a Director of the Board. John, you are welcome to attend any and all of our events. And last but not least, Dan McKeon of Peninsula Lake Association, who is presently at home recovering from a complete hip replacement. Dan, we wish you a speedy

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WORLD CLOCK

Check out this link for fascinating information statistics on topics from world population to oil and car production. You can even download a version for your computer.

www.peterrussell.com/Odds/WorldClock.hp

Thanks to Mike Greenfield for sending it to us.

The Town of Huntsville has a list of contact persons from various lakes who are available to accept inquiries from the public regarding information pertinent to their particular lake. To update this list, please notify the HLC of any changes in information concerning your lake contact person.

Chair's Message...con't

recovery so that you can return to our table and help keep us on the straight and narrow.

Recently the HLC received a timely and welcome donation from the Fairy Lake Association. Thank you FLA.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize the efforts of the management and staff of Pipefusion Services Inc. for their dedication in designing and manufacturing of two prototype navigational buoys located on the Muskoka River at the Vernon Narrows and Camp Kitchen. Thank you Pipefusion.

The Huntsville Lakes Council continues to serve you the member associations as best we can but we do need your help. There are still associations who are members but are not represented at the Board of Director meetings. Without your representation, the HLC does not know what you are doing or how we can assist you. If your association is not represented, please do your utmost to identify a suitable candidate.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Bill Somers, Chair.

Lake Association Updates**Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association (LWRA)**

Chronological list of dates and activities related to the severance application of four lots by a lakefront resident on Lake Waseosa

- 2002-Severance application submitted to town planning department
- December 2005 - Severance application before council and is rejected
- January 2006 - Applicant appealed council decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)
- Town of Huntsville, three days prior to case being heard by the OMB, backs out as a party and will not support LWRA

- November 2006 - OMB hearing takes place and subsequently rules in favor of LWRA and denies severance
- February 2007 - applicant appeals to OMB and asks for a review of the November decision
- August 2007 - OMB assistant chair presides over review hearing and decides to allow a new hearing to be scheduled in December 2007
- October 2007 - LWRA decides to appeal to divisional court stating the OMB erred in their decision of facts allowing a new hearing
- January 2008 - Divisional court will review factum supplied by LWRA as to whether it warrants a divisional court appearance
- As of this date, we do not know whether the applicants lawyer will agree to defer the OMB hearing date of December 2007.

Bruce Howlett,
LWRA President

Peninsula Lake Association (PLA)

Following a long struggle to oppose a quarry overlooking Peninsula Lake, the Peninsula Lake Association is waiting for an OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) decision, the result of a re-hearing which took place October 16th and 17th. The PLA wish to thank all those members who continue to participate in this struggle.

Dan McKeon, Director

Mary Lake Association (MLA)

- 2007 has been a busy year for the Mary Lake Association as we dealt with issues on several fronts. The first in the year was the Dam issue with the MNR threatening to shut down the pedestrian crossing that had been in service for well over 100 years. The legal aspects of the agreement about the dam walkway are complete. The MNR and the Town of Huntsville have completed their negotiations and reached agreement. The engineers are now completing their drawings/calculations. The issue will soon be over and the walkway in place.

Mary Lake Assoc. Update...con't

- The Mary Lake Association is very concerned that the newly mandated water levels are having, and can be expected to continue to have, significant negative impact on both the natural shoreline and built structures on Mary Lake. In the spring and early summer the higher water levels are creating significantly higher erosion risk to the "soft" shoreline of the lake. The higher water levels are also leaving many docks and boathouses awash and exposing their dock decking and structure to damaging wave action. The lower water of the later summer and fall is leaving many docks and moorings with insufficient water depth to support navigation activities. The Mary Lake Association intends to aggressively pursue all available avenues to reduce and eliminate the negative impact of Mary Lake water levels mandated under the MRWMP. The Muskoka River Water Management Plan ("MRWMP") adopted by the Ministry of Natural Resources in March 2006 has significantly altered the "normal" lake level targets or "Ruler Curve" from the lake level plan that had been in place on Mary Lake for the previous several decades.
- The Lake Plan for Mary Lake is slowly working its way through the municipal approval process. The Plan, which was approved in principal by the members of the Mary Lake Association at the 2006 Annual General Meeting, was initially intended to be incorporated as part of the 2006 update of the Huntsville Official Plan.
- The MLA initiated several DockTalk meetings at cottages around the lake. Two sessions were held this summer where the owners were primarily concerned with naturalization, management of steep slopes and pollution prevention. Mary lake specific advice is being planned to enhance the sessions next year.
- There is a new MLA website at www.marylakeassociation.org. Included

will be maps on how to get to Mary Lake, the history of settlement around the lake, and how the lake plan affects our members.

- **NOTE:** Save the date: Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 for the District of Muskoka native plant sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Greenfield
Director, Mary Lake Association

Navigation Buoys

As you will recall, the Huntsville Lakes Council was approached by one of its member lakes last December because it had recently presented a request to Town council for help in funding approved navigation buoys for its lake. Council suggested that it would consider such an application if it came from the HLC on behalf of all the lakes in the area needing buoys.

Six lakes do use buoys and all agreed that it made sense to use approved types. A meeting was held with the mayor providing him with information from the Canadian Coast Guard on its recommendations and buoy costs. Since the costs were high, based to a great extent on the shipping portion, the mayor suggested that a local company be approached to see if there might be interest in local manufacture.

Pipefusion Services Inc. agreed to undertake the construction of a prototype for our review. Rob Laver of the Lake Vernon Association agreed to be the liaison between Pipefusion and the interested lakes. Subsequently, two navigation buoys have been put in place by the Vernon Narrows bridge and at Camp Kitchen to provide the most exposure - and perhaps feedback from boaters.

There has been comment that the present prototypes may be too large and heavy for lake associations to manage removal in the fall and reinstallation each spring, at least for those lakes who wish to not have buoys in place over winter. Consequently, the Lake Vernon Association agreed to purchase one buoy from an American dealer and Bill Somers acquired a free buoy from the Coast Guard for Jan Nyquist of Pipefusion to look at.

Navigation Buoys...con't

Representatives of the six lakes met recently with Jan to discuss their needs. Interest was expressed in a barrel-type buoy which Jan can make up easily. He will provide us with costs for this very soon. The involved lakes will decide if they'd prefer to go with the barrel type or the spar buoy and, if there is interest in going with the spar type, Jan will see if he can make one at costs approaching those of the model purchased from the U.S. If this is possible, he'll get his retail costs to us. We will then present our needs to Town by early March so that council can decide the amount of Town's financial support to give lakes time to decide on purchase in time for installation in the spring.

The mayor has expressed his opinion that it makes sense for Town to cover the insurance of these as there is much less cost doing it this way than to have each lake acquire insurance individually.

Pipefusion has done all its work on the prototypes free of charge. Many thanks Jan! And thanks to Rob for co-ordinating with Jan.

Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Committee

The Comprehensive Zoning By-law deals with all the by-laws needed to enforce planning policy, as either set out in or inferred by the intent of the Official Plan.

Rick Hunter of Planscape compiled the first complete draft based on our new Official Plan and, after revisions by the CZB Review Committee, this was presented to the public in two meetings held in August, 2007. A further draft based on public input was presented to the Committee and Rick has been busy compiling yet another draft. Public meetings will be held on this final draft, probably in the New Year. Because it is so important that this document follows the guidelines set out in the new Official Plan, the HLC Policy Committee will outline changes it would like to see and ask for feedback from its member lakes. This will allow us to send in a document with some weight. Copies of this draft will be available at Town Hall in the Planning Department or online at Town's website, www.huntsville.ca. I urge you all to obtain a copy of the public draft, send any

comments you have on the document the Policy Committee will send to its lakes and attend the public meeting with your own comments ready.

- Are you part of a group that is trying to form a new lake association or do you know of another lake group that is trying to do this?
- Is your existing lake association considering incorporating but not sure if it wants to do this or how to start the process?
- Does your lake want to start a lake plan but not know how or where to begin?

Huntsville Lakes Council has developed guideline documents that can help you with the above challenges. Just contact us at e-mail us at contact@huntsvillelakescouncil.org for assistance or check out our website at www.huntsvillelakescouncil.org for more information.

Documents available:

- How to Form a Lake Association
- Flowchart to Incorporate a Not-for-profit Organization
- Lake Plan Template/Manual (LPT/M)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Huntsville Lakes Council is an association of Huntsville & area lakes who purpose is:

- *to identify & provide a single strong voice to lobby for issues held in common among the lakes*
- *to facilitate lake plan development*
- *to provide education on issues involving lakes & the watershed*
- *to promote stewardship*

If you have any questions about the Huntsville Lakes Council, please e-mail them to contact@huntsvillelakescouncil.org.

This newsletter is prepared by the Huntsville Lakes Council for its' members and supporters. If you would like to comment on this newsletter or contribute an article or post an event in upcoming additions, please contact contact@huntsvillelakescouncil.org.