



PIKE LAKE POST

Summer 2006

OBITUARY: CALVIN MOODIE, PIKE LAKE

Glenn Cook

Several days before Christmas 2005 I lost a fine friend of 35 years. His name was Cal Moodie. Cal and I first met on a windswept promontory overlooking my cottage where we discussed how electrical power could be brought in. As the years unfolded we found we had many common interests which included aviation, history and animal life. Subsequently, in later years, we had formed a friendship so close we decided to build an aircraft together. I fly that aircraft to this day.

Few lakes in Ontario are fortunate to have a family who become the lake stewards, guardian of wildlife and offer assistance and help to those fortunate enough to have homes and cottages on the lake. Cal Moodie, along with his wife Donna, was one of those families. Throughout the years he was always busy assisting us by tuning our water-pumps to perfection, building cottages and garages, shingling roofs, storing boats in the fall and preparing the engines for use in the spring. The work he performed for us over the years reminded us of the clock that describes the yearly cycle of this wonderful place and helped to make our lives so much easier.

While we all appreciated Cal's' capacity to "make things work" I'm sure most of those reading this Newsletter will remember him reminiscing about the history of the area. On cool autumn

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240 LUXURY CONDOMINIUMS AT PIKE LAKE, ONTARIO

Highly desirable units in a wide variety of sizes and designs, each with unsurpassed views of a beautiful pristine lake can be yours this summer by calling your Pike Lake agent. As an added bonus, the monthly condominium fees are less than two dollars.

Nobody is going to be fooled by this advertisement, but if you think about it for a minute you will have to admit that there is a direct correspondence between our single family homes or cottages on the lake and a condominium unit.

As in the case of a condominium we all share a common resource and that is beautiful Pike Lake, the main feature of our enjoyment and the major factor influencing the value of our properties. Pike Lake is valuable!

Your Property Owners Association is active all year round representing your interests to the Provincial Government through FOCA, to Tay Valley Township, and to the OPP as well as sitting on advisory bodies such as the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, and the Citizen's Mining Advisory Group plus collaborating with other Lake Associations in the Region.

In this newsletter you will find an update on the Pike Lake Management Plan which is important to the future value of

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HIGHLIGHT YOUR CALENDARS ... COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

At the informative, friendly & nourishing ...

**2006 PIKE LAKE ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY JULY 15TH FROM 10-12 AM
OLD BURGESS TOWNSHIP HALL**

Easy to find ... go south on Narrows Lock Road
from County Rd. # 10 (Scotch Line)

Need more info? Please call Orest Roscoe at
613-267-2034 or 613 829-2848

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- Elect your new President & Executive
- Mining update
- Lake Management Plan progress
- Healthy lake & septic systems & products
- What do you want to say?



evenings, Cal would drop by and talk about the habits of the animals, the wolves on the lake in the winter, and the groundhogs whistling from the fence-posts in spring. Occasionally, he would talk about his family history and how the Moodie clan got started in this cold and difficult land some three hundred years ago.

Whatever the subject, we have lost a gentleman of great character. I'm certain I speak for all on Pike Lake, cottagers and full-time residents alike, when I say:

We will miss you old friend!

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MINING CONCERNS ON PIKE LAKE

As reported at our 2005 AGM, mining is still an issue for Pike Lake and our lake district. Our Association is a member of the Citizen's Mining Action Group (CMAG) which is actively opposing prospecting on private land, including waterfront properties on Pike and other lakes.

In most cases, the province does not own subsurface rights on Pike Lake, as determined by the 140 year old Mining Act of Ontario. These are probably attached to your land title but a full and likely expensive title search would be necessary to verify this. However, if you do not own the subsurface rights, your property can be staked with only 24 hours notice and this can lead to destructive and expensive consequences. You could also be affected if your neighbours' property was staked.

It had been hoped that the Government of Ontario would have been less influenced by the powerful mining lobby but this has not transpired. Our Pike Lake Association will continue to support the CMAG in its efforts to get changes to the Mining Act for the protection of all lake property owners.

Wylie Stewart

GREAT NEWS FOR PIKE LAKE

RVCA REPORTS THAT THERE ARE NO SPINY WATER FLEAS OR ZEBRA MUSSEL VELIGERS IN PIKE LAKE SAMPLES!

HIP-HIP-HOORAY!!! WAHOOO!!!!

LET'S PULL TOGETHER &
DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO
KEEP IT THAT WAY!!!

For clear pictures & info about
our most problematic invasive species, check out
INVADERS – INVERTEBRATES
www.invadingspecies.com

LAKE ASSOCIATION NETWORK

The Group of Lake Associations continues to meet twice a year to discuss and act upon common issues and concerns.

The Group, in conjunction with other partners, has organized a **Waste Water Workshop** to address septic and well issues. Mark your calendars for **Saturday August 12, 2006**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Farrell Hall, 186 Gore St., Perth. The first 2 hours will focus on septic issues and the second 2 hours will address well issues. More info will be available at the AGM.

Pike Lake is still free of **Zebra Mussels!** Please advise friends and tenants that it is essential that we continue to protect the lake. Simply follow these easy steps:

- Don't transport water by boat from one lake to another
- Wash boats before entering the lake from another body of water
- Dispose of bait and bilge water on land
- Don't dump aquarium water in the lake

The Group also continues to meet with the Lanark O.P.P. twice a year. This open communication is positive and a wonderful way to learn about the Lakes and how we can help ourselves as cottagers.

We are reminded to **avoid opportunistic thefts** by securing possessions, locking cars, and keeping valuables inside not in the car.

For more info or to get involved, please contact Audrey Cook dgcook@ca.inter.net

TAY VALLEY'S NEW SEPTIC INSPECTOR

– JAMIE SAUNDERS –

RECOMMENDS SPENDING \$40 FOR A VALVE
WHICH WILL LENGTHEN THE LIFE
OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM...

SOUNDS LIKE MONEY WELL SPENT!

HEAR ALL ABOUT IT AT THE JULY 15TH AGM

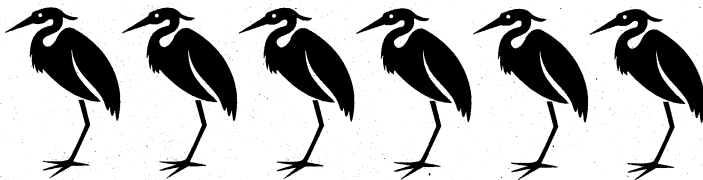


our properties as well as our enjoyment of Pike Lake. You will also find information on the Provincial Mining Act and its potential to interfere with your enjoyment of your will property and its value. These are but two examples of the important work undertaken by volunteers on behalf of all of us.

Your Property Owners Association needs you. There are so many ways for you to contribute to the future of our lake, to protect our lake and our property values. The range of volunteer opportunities include helping to prepare and distribute the newsletter, attending special meetings on behalf of Pike Lakers, contributing to the Lake Management Plan, and being a member of the executive. All of our efforts help to build and sustain the Pike Lake community. Your Association also needs your annual membership fee to fund important initiatives to protect our lake and our properties as well as to keep in touch with you.

All Pike Lakers are encouraged to attend this year's AGM in Burgess Hall at 10 a.m., Saturday July 15th.

Wylie, Stewart



MEMBERSHIPS can be mailed in, or paid at the AGM. See membership form included with this newsletter. Membership fees only \$15/1yr., \$30/2 yrs or \$45/3 yrs.

MOVING? Don't forget to put us on your Address Change list so we can keep you 'Pike-posted.'

Send your membership form and address changes to:
Pike Lake Property Owners Association
RR #3, Perth, ON K7H 3C5

For more info about membership, please contact:
Orest Roscoe at oroscoe@sympatico.ca

GARBAGE TAGS CAN NOW BE MAILED TO YOU

Send your request with a self-addressed envelope to:
Tay Valley Township, 217 Harper Road
RR #4, Perth, ON K7H 3C6.

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM JOINING THE PIKE LAKE ASSOCIATION

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Lake management & stewardship guidance
- Water-testing
- Watershed liaison
- Voice into FOCA, Tay Valley, Tay Valley Lakes Network to represent Pike Lake perspective
- Increased attention from municipal & other governments
- Identification & development of pre-emptive strategies to preserve lake quality, such as how to prevent invasive species from entering Pike Lake
- Organization and support of educational workshops, such as the August 12, 2006 **Water in Water out - a Free Waste Water Workshop** on how to keep your septic system alive & healthy
- Contribution to organizations & initiatives which strengthen community & overall quality of life.....

LET'S ALL GET INVOLVED!

2005 Financial Report

Revenues

Opening balance, Jan. 2005	1,555.54
Income (2005 memberships)	<u>1,260.00</u>
Total revenues	2,815.54

Expenses

Water Testing	-860.23
Newsletter	-100.00
Other expenses	<u>-594.45</u>
Total expenses	-1,554.68

Closing balance, Dec. 2005	<u>1,260.86</u>
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Mandy Bjerkelund, Treasurer

p.s. Because we've paid for water testing for 4 years now, we get 2006 testing for free! Bonus!



LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LMP)

At last year's AGM, property owners unanimously approved a motion to begin the development of a Management Plan for Pike Lake. In so doing, we agreed to examine the possibility of sharing in the Trillium funding for the preparation our plan. Sheanna Tinlin, who made an excellent presentation on LMP, has been hired by RVCA to assist lakes with their plans. The LMP looks at a wide range of factors that affect the aging and pollution of the lake and provides a framework for good lake development decision-making for the generation to come. The plan will assist Tay Valley Township and other public organizations. The Watershed Watch water testing we have done for the past five years provides an excellent source of data for the plan.

A steering committee of seven volunteer property owners was created and began the work last summer. Several organization meetings were held and a project plan created (please see LMP announcement attached). We have already begun to put the plan into action. A major first step is to survey all property owners concerning their values and wants. This survey will be conducted in 2006 or early 2007. If you wish to join our LMP committee, please contact me. The preparation of the LMP will not be overly expensive. Please support us by joining your Pike Lake Property Owners association.

Geoff Mace, Pike Lake Steward
613.264.3375 (lake) 613.744.1178 (home)
maceg@algonquincollege.com

WHAT'S A WATERSHED ANYWAY?

A Watershed is a geographic area that collects, stores, and releases water downstream into a larger Watershed. The water comes in to the Watershed as rain or snow. Then it's stored in lakes, ponds, and subsurface soils and geologic formations. The water goes out of the Watershed through rivers, streams and as groundwater seeping every which way it can flow.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes, and typically start as smaller Watersheds, which flow into larger ones.

That's the case with Pike Lake. We have Little Crosby and Crosby Lakes above us in our Watershed. Then our Watershed dumps into the Tay River Watershed, and then into the Rideau River Watershed, Ottawa River Watershed, etc. No matter where we are, we're in a watershed; either upstream or downstream.

- So, if that's a Watershed... what's a Lake-shed? Ever heard of that?
- What's our Watershed called? How many lakes and rivers are in it?
- What do you like most about our Lakeshed and Watershed?

For more info about Watersheds, see Rideau Valley Conservation Authority www.rideauvalley.on.ca and Friends of the Tay Watershed www.tayriver.org. They have both good info and links to more good info.

WATER QUALITY EQUALS PROPERTY VALUES

Poor water quality, specifically poor *water clarity*, can put a damper on swimming and other lake activities. It can also affect our property values. Research from Maine and Wisconsin indicates that the value of lakefront property can drop significantly with a decrease in water clarity, an important factor for people buying property on lakes. The Maine study found that a 3 foot decrease in water clarity meant a loss of 10% to 20% in the selling price. That equals \$594 per frontage foot in the case of the Maine study. Just as interesting is the fact that property values increased with improved water clarity. A 3 foot increase in water clarity sent property values up \$423 per foot of frontage.

Fortunately, we at Pike Lake have maintained relatively good water clarity; our measurements from 2002 to 2005 show an average of about 16 feet of visibility. However, last year 16% of our 208 E. Coli samples exceeded the Provincial Water Quality Objective and the percentages for Nitrogen and Phosphorus were 8% which is also above accepted standards.

In most lakes, humans contribute to the E Coli count by not maintaining their septic systems and to the decline in water clarity by contributing excess phosphorus and/or nitrogen. The presence of E Coli and excess algae in the lake can be linked to human activities in the watershed. We all need to be more vigilant in our lake stewardship by following these:

FIVE EASY STEPS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

1. Build at least 30 metres from the shoreline (local by-law).
2. Keep your lot well treed and preserve or replant native vegetation along the shoreline.
3. Pump out your septic tank every three to five years and have the tank and tile field inspected periodically. (Attend the waste water workshop on August 12th for more info.)
4. Reduce water use and use phosphate free soaps and detergents.
5. Keep the size of your lawn to a minimum and do not use fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. And... it is both easier and less expensive to maintain a property that is naturalized.

We are very fortunate to be one of the few local lakes where we've managed to keep zebra mussels from gaining a foothold. In the words of Patrick Larson from RVCA, **we all must work together to protect the lake both from invasive species and nutrient loading.**

Geoff Mace, Pike Lake Steward

