



Pike Lake Post

PIKE LAKE POST

May 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last week we spent our first week-end for 2005 at our cottage, it was definitely worth waiting all winter for.

While you sit back and look at Pike Lake think about what you can do to contribute to its well-being as an executive or cottage owner member. This is your lake. Your interest in PLPOA is vital to preserve and improve the water quality and maintain and restore the shoreline environment so that Pike Lake will be clean and beautiful for the present and future generations.

New property owners are especially encouraged to join and become involved in the Association. New ideas and energy are needed to ensure the future of the lake.

I want to thank personally all current and past members of the executive.

I encourage you to participate in PLPOA. If you have been holding off from joining there couldn't be a better time than now. **Caroline Tibbles**

MEMBERSHIP

Paid up membership for 2004 was 95, a drop of 25 from the previous year, and less than half of Pike Lake property owners. Not a sparkling record!

We have a good start for 2005 however, 26 members prepaid for 2005 when paying their 2004 dues. Memberships can be paid directly to your Newsletter delivery person, mailed in, or paid at the AGM planned for July 9th.

Membership form at the end of the next page. **Orest Roscoe**

2005 AGM

Please circle the date on your calendar, **Saturday July 9th 10 -12 at the Old Burgess Township Hall**

At the AGM we will be looking for new members for the executive including a new President as I am not seeking re-election. I have been President for nearly 5 years so it is time to move on.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Water Quality

In a recent ad for a workshop, these words appeared. "Key punch lines are popping up everywhere: proper stewardship, ecological integrity, lake management plans, sensitive waterfront management... decreasing our impact on the environment. Interesting stuff, but what does it really mean for a regular person? What can we do to help? And most importantly, why should we care?" These words express just how far the issues of **good lake practices** have come in the past few years. As expressed in another section of this post, the lake and its' environment represent our common property and our responsibility to protect. We are all lake stewards.

For the past four years, Pike lake has participated in the Watershed Watch program supported by RVCA. 2001 was the year of the green slime, but every year since has produced acceptable measurements of phosphorus, nitrogen, coli (except for some hot spots) and water clarity with no evidence of zebra mussels. However, we must continue to be vigilant when it comes to the:

FIVE EASY STEPS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

1. Build at least 30 meters 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.
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 easier and cheaper to maintain a property that is naturalized?

Lake Management Plan

During the past year, the Government of Ontario has increased funding for the study and protection of watersheds. Granting organizations such as Trillium have also started to provide more funding for the preparation of a lake management plan. This plan 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.

It is time for Pike Lake to join with several other local lakes who are preparing lake management plans. Standard planning templates are now in use, making the planning job easier and less costly. We will need a volunteer committee of four or five people to oversee the creation of the plan in consultation with other resources. No experience required! And...think of the benefits!! Please contact me.

Geoff Mace
Lake Steward

613.264.3375 (lake)
613.744.1178 (home)
maceg@algonquincollege.com

LAKE NETWORKING GROUP

Members of several, [10] Lake Associations have met informally twice a year for two years to address issues and concerns common to us all. We have discussed Cottage Safety, Marine Issues,

Water Quality and shared ideas and resources.

Otty, Long, and Greater Bob's and Crow Lakes are proceeding with Lake Management Planning and generously share their experiences and material with the group. A Trillium Grant Proposal has been submitted to assist Associations financially with their Plans.

This group also meets twice a year with the O.P.P., Lanark Detachment, and have had open discussions on Safety Topics. We have toured The Communication Centre in Smith's Falls and observed how a 9-1-1 call is processed. The suggestion was made that as explicit road directions are vital to a successful quick response to a call, that cottagers should have printed directions to their cottage by the telephone so that in a time of stress these could be read to the Operator responding to the call.

If anyone is interested in representing our Association at either of these meetings please contact me. It is a great way to meet others who have similar concerns, to communicate with the O.P.P. and to help our wonderful Lake remain the ideal place it is!

Audrey Cook dgcook@ca.inter.net

MINING CONCERNS

The question of property rights versus mining and prospecting rights have been discussed at our Annual General Meetings for the last three or four years and continue to demand our utmost vigilance and support to our Councilor, Maureen Towaij, who has led Lanark County delegations to the Ministers of Mines and Northern Development, Environment, and Municipal & Housing Affairs.

As previously reported property owners at the north and south ends of the lake own the subsurface as well as the surface rights to their land but for properties on both shores at the middle section the rights are retained by the province and are available to prospectors.

We were hopeful that the presentations made by Ms Towaij in February would

have been favorably received by our Liberal government by recognizing the rights of property owners over those of the mining industry but a new Provincial Policy Statement which came into effect on March 1st 2005 provides more protection for long term mineral aggregate supply than for the owners of the surface rights to properties.

The following extracts from Section 2.5 of the document give pause for concern: Mineral aggregate resources (MAR) shall be protected for long-term use. MAR shall be made available as close to market as possible.

Demonstration for a need for MAR shall not be necessary.

Extraction shall minimize social and environmental impacts.

The conservation of MAR shall be promoted by making recovery wherever possible.

Except in special cases development of adjacent land shall not preclude the recovery of MAR.

One small concession states:

Progressive and final rehabilitation shall be required to accommodate

subsequent land uses, to promote land use compatibility, and to recognize the interim nature of extraction.

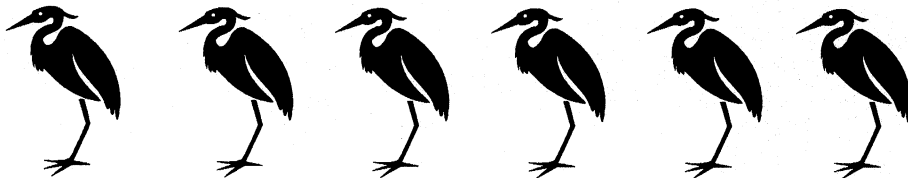
This is little consolation to the land owner when the Mining Act allows prospectors/mining companies to excavate upon 24 hours notice to the land owner even if s/he is not there to receive the notice.

Ms. Towaij has been invited to our AGM so it is important to attend the meeting and learn more about a matter which affects us all whether or not we own the mining rights. **Wylie Stewart**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening balance Jan 2004	\$1,902.36
Income (memberships)	\$1,455.01
Total	<u>\$3,357.37</u>
Water testing	\$1,055.04-
Other expenses	\$ 746.08-
Closing balance Dec.2004	\$1,555.54

Mandy Bjerkelund



Pike Lake 2004 Membership Application or Renewal

Names: _____ No change in Information _____

Home address: _____

Cottage Route & PIN#: _____

Home telephone _____ Home telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Annual dues: \$15.00 per property. AMOUNT PAID: _____

PLPOA, RR3, Perth, ON K7H 3C5