



Pike Lake Post

Summer 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a late spring the summer seems to be advancing, school is out and soon the lake will be in full swing. I wish you all a happy and safe cottage season.

This year the AGM is earlier, on July 17th at the Old Burgess Township Hall starting at 10am.sharp. Coffee will be served from 9-30 onwards to allow time to visit.

We are not planning any social events again this year but, we are open for suggestions and are willing to support anything the membership wish to organize.

As usual we are looking for more of you to join our executive, **we have at least 2 positions vacant.** Please come to the meeting prepared to offer a little of your time, we only have 3-4 executive meetings a year plus the AGM with maybe a workshop or two in the fall/winter.

Hope to see you at the meeting and if you haven't already done so please check out our new sign at the boat launch?

Caroline Tibbles.

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WATER QUALITY

Overall quality is good – Weed growth a major issue

Although the measurements for 2003 indicate a continued good level of water quality at Pike Lake, there are concerns about excessive weed growth in bays. This has led to deterioration in lake enjoyment for those residents living in the shallow bays. We should all be especially vigilant in our lake practices by observing the:

FIVE EASY STEPS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

1. Build at least 30 metres away 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.



Low Phosphorus Lifestyle	High Phosphorus Lifestyle
Human Waste 535 g	Human Waste 535 g
No Dishwasher 0 g	Dishwasher using powdered detergent once per day 650g
No fertilizer 0 g	Lawn fertilized once/year 1,960 g
Uses phosphate-free products 20 g	Uses products with phosphates 180 g

A. Water Quality Measurement

There are two programs in place: the **Lake Partner and Watershed Watch programs**.

The MOE Lake Partner program has provided phosphorus and water clarity measures for 30 years for Ontario lakes. On both measures, Pike lake compares well to local lakes such as Black, Otty, Crosby and Bob's and, in most years, we have been within provincial guidelines. Weather variations play a significant role although human loading has contributed to a slight upward trend in phosphorus measurements during the past ten years.

The much more comprehensive Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) Watershed Watch program has now produced three years of data for Pike Lake. In 2001, the lake was green with algae and a composite score of D was given by RVCA. In 2002 and 2003, water clarity improved with a rating of B for both years. Historically, it appears now that the poor 2001 results were not typical and were caused by extreme weather conditions with excessive rain in May and June and excessive heat in July. For complete results see:

http://www.rideauvalley.on.ca/programs/wwatch/watershed_watch_docs.htm

It is also good news that invasive species testing has been negative for all three years.

A summary comment from the 2003 report: "Stewardship needs to be

continued around the lake with specific attention paid to the area of sites D and E. What is up that stream flowing into the lake at site D (the stream from the dump)? What is causing the elevated bacteria and nutrient inputs at site E (the bay at the T junction of route 16)? All Pike Lake residents need to look at their properties to ensure that their impact on Pike Lake is minimal."

B. Improvement Programs

Your lake stewardship team actively pursues improvement as follows:

- Provides information on good lake practices
- Helps the township determine the focus of septic inspections.
- Posts signs such as the "invasive species" sign at the boat launch.
- Becoming more involved with other lake associations and the township in order to influence the implementation and enforcement of by-laws that assist water quality programs.

Thanks to your stewardship team: Audrey Cook, John Wilson, Phil Tibbles, Wylie Stewart, George Samson and Orest Roscoe. Geoff Mace, Lake steward
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MEMBERSHIP

Paid up membership for 2004 now stands at 72

Total memberships for 2003 were 120 - 55% of Pike Lake property owners.

15 members have paid for 2005.

Memberships can still be mailed in, paid directly to your Newsletter delivery person or, at the AGM planned for 17 July.

Dale Crook

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