



# PIKE LAKE POST

Summer 2010

## HIGHLIGHT YOUR CALENDARS

### COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS & THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY

#### THE 2010 PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING IS ON SATURDAY JULY 17

COFFEE & REGISTRATION AT 9 AM

MEETING FROM 9:30 AM - 11:45 AM

AT THE OLD BURGESS TOWNSHIP HALL

Easy to find From County Rd. #10 (Scotch Line)

Go 2 km South on Narrows Lock Road

Need more info? Call Bart Poulter at 613-825-4658 (home)

#### Agenda Highlights

- Develop Our Lake Stewardship Action Plan
- Contribute to the History of Pike Lake
- Learn about RVCA Grants for Shoreline Naturalization
- Elect Your Executive  
.... & Consider Joining the Team

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Water Quality Results
- Safeguard Your Septic System
- RVCA Shoreline Naturalization Program
- Think Before You Cut Aquatic Vegetation
- Voices of Pike Lake: A History of Pike Lake
- The State of Pike Lake Report: Update
- Lake Stewardship Action Plan
- Farewell & Kudos to Geoff Mace
- Meeting with Tay Valley Township Council
- Municipal Elections
- Mining Act Update
- Financial Summary

Also included:

- PLCA Membership Form
- PLCA Volunteer Form
- *Voices of Pike Lake* Order Form

#### WAYS YOU CAN HELP KEEP

##### PIKE LAKE CLEAN & HEALTHY

- Pump out your septic tank every 3 to 5 years. Have the tank & the leaching field inspected periodically (see p.2)
- Use phosphate-free soaps & detergents
- Do not use fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. Keep the size of your lawn to a minimum
- Keep your lot well treed. Preserve or replant native vegetation along the shoreline (see p.2)
- Keep your boat wake low near the shoreline so you don't cause erosion or destroy the nests of waterfowl
- Don't cut aquatic weeds; they'll grow back thicker than before (see p.2)
- Clean your boat before coming on the lake to ensure you don't introduce zebra mussels which destroy the fish population & affect swimming enjoyment

## SAFEGUARD YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

You can significantly reduce weed-causing nutrient flows into Pike Lake & protect your drinking water by properly maintaining your septic system.

Have your tank inspected & pumped out every 3-5 years.

Use phosphate free soaps & environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Avoid putting antibacterial products into your septic system because they can kill off the beneficial bacteria that break down the contaminants in your wastewater.

Cooking oils & dental floss can clog up your system.

Never dump toxic waste down your drain or toilet. Paints, oils, gasoline antifreeze & chlorine can be disposed of at the hazardous waste site.

To avoid damaging or clogging the leaching bed:

- Don't drive cars or heavy machinery over your septic system, especially the leaching bed
- Don't plant trees or shrubs on or near the leaching bed
- Avoid constructing patios, decks or parking areas over your leaching bed

Consider installing a composting toilet.

For more information visit the Ontario On-Site Wastewater Association at [www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org)

## THINK BEFORE YOU CUT

A healthy lake & thriving fish need aquatic plants. Unfortunately the arrival of Eurasian milfoil & the growth of other aquatic weeds in recent years are affecting the enjoyment of swimming for many of us.

Think cutting weeds will do the trick? Think again. "Harvesting" the weeds is like mowing the lawn - they'll grow back thicker than before.

If you really need to remove aquatic weeds, make sure you dump them on your lot at least 30 metres (100 feet) from shore. No closer. And DO NOT leave fragments of plants like Eurasian milfoil behind in the water - chopping them up makes them spread, in some cases to your neighbours. More info at:

- [http://www.lakefieldherald.com/KLSA/Plant\\_Guide\\_web.pdf](http://www.lakefieldherald.com/KLSA/Plant_Guide_web.pdf)
- [http://209.5.125.108/IM/Documents/LMP/aquatic\\_vegetation\\_presentation.pdf](http://209.5.125.108/IM/Documents/LMP/aquatic_vegetation_presentation.pdf)

Remember, you may need a permit from the Kemptville Office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to remove / manage water weeds. Both MNR & RVCA can provide you with advice.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS 2009

**Geoff Mace, Lake Steward**

We now have 9 years of data (2001-2009) from the Watershed Watch Program provided by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. For the first few years, eight locations around the lake were sampled several times each year. Starting in 2008, sampling was reduced to four locations, three times per year.

The 2009 results were much the same as 2008 & not that different from the past five years. There has been a moderate decreasing trend in both nitrogen & phosphorus over the nine years & we are still showing no signs of invasive species (zebra mussels or spiny water flea).

Complete results for 2001-2004 are available at [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca) Results for 2005-2009 will be posted in the near future.

Geoff has decided to pass on the torch of Lake Steward. PLCA thank you on page 6 (ed).

## NATURALIZE YOUR SHORELINE

Natural, well-vegetated shorelines are one of the best defences in protecting water quality. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) has a new program that helps waterfront property owners establish or enhance natural shorelines. The program provides site visits by experienced biologists, with the know-how to plan, order the plants you need & provide extra muscle for the replanting. And, best of all, the program has grants of up to \$1,000 for approved shoreline naturalization projects.

Here's why it is important. Natural shorelines (often called the Ribbon of Life) are critical to keeping our local streams, rivers & lakes clean & healthy. They act like natural filters catching & holding all kinds of nutrients & contaminants running into the water from the upland area. Vegetated shorelines are the best protection against erosion & provide valuable habitat for birds, fish & other wildlife. If you enjoy swimming, fishing or spending time along healthy streams, rivers & lakes, natural shorelines are your best friends.

Who is eligible for the Program?

- Waterfront property owners along streams, rivers & lakes within the Rideau watershed
- Lake associations, river groups & other not-for-profit groups within the Rideau watershed

To find out more or to set up a site visit, please contact Andrea Klymko, Shoreline Stewardship Technician, at 613-692-3571 (1-800-267-3504) ext 1173 or [andrea.klymko@rvca.ca](mailto:andrea.klymko@rvca.ca)



## VOICES OF PIKE LAKE

### - A History of Pike Lake -

Share your stories about Pike Lake's past - distant or recent – in the first book recounting the story of the Lake over the past three centuries and more.

The Pike Lake Community Association is seeking storytellers with tales big & small, family recollections & special memories of time spent at Pike Lake. Together with General Store Publishing House of Renfrew, it plans to publish *Voices of Pike Lake* as told by those who know it best - the people of Pike Lake.

This book will highlight the people, places & events associated with Pike Lake from the days the Algonquins camped by the Lake, to the arrival of the European settlers, from the early cottagers to today. Themes will include the Algonquins, early settlers, farming, forestry, & mica mining, businesses on the Lake, the first cottagers, recreational activities, significant events, & special memories. The book will appeal to a broad general audience, ranging from cottagers to long-time township residents, new comers to old timers.

Writers may choose any of the themes. So that we can include as many stories as possible, we have set a limit of 500-1,500 words for each submission. However, you may make more than one submission. Pictures enrich a story so don't forget to include photographs. Stories may be edited for style, accuracy & length. All authors will be credited. The deadline for submissions is July 31, 2010.

While many authors have explored the rich history of Perth & of Lanark County, few have written about the lakes & its peoples. *Voices of Pike Lake* will be released in early summer 2011.

The PLCA wishes to thank Dave Moodie, Donna Moodie, Nick Mulder, Kay Rogers, & Tay Valley Township for their financial contributions toward this initiative.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Kay Rogers at 613-326-0363 or Donna Moodie at 613-267-3283.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Algonquins camped, fished & hunted on Pike Lake's shores.

We've learned that the first settlers to homestead on Pike Lake were the Donnelly family who arrived in 1811 & the McNamee family who arrived in 1831. Both families emigrated from Ireland.

In 1812, R. Sherwood, a local surveyor, named our lake Pike Lake because of the abundance of northern pike in the lake.

The original Pike Lake dam was built by J.K. Allan in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to provide a storage reservoir to ensure there was power for his sawmill & gristmill on Grant's Creek a few kilometres downstream.

Pike Lake cows contributed milk to the cheese factory in Stanleyville which in turn became part of the Mammoth Cheese from Perth that was exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

The stage coach ran two or three times a week between Perth & Westport stopping near Pike Lake to water the horses.

Sylvester McNamee cut ice during the winter months to provide ice for the freezer in "ice boxes" in the 1950's & 60's - the days before cottagers had electric fridges.



Cal Moodie, Greig Murphy, Bob Nixon, & Cliff Thompson (Game Warden), ling fishing in January 1962

## A LIMITED NUMBER OF BOOKS WILL BE PRINTED

### PURCHASE YOUR COPY OF *VOICES OF PIKE LAKE* NOW

We know that *Voices of Pike Lake* will be a best seller. The question is how many copies should be printed. To help us answer this question, & to make sure you get a copy, consider purchasing your copies in advance.

Buy one copy for \$30; buy two or more copies for \$25 each. See enclosed order form.

You can purchase *Voices of Pike Lake* in advance at the AGM, or by contacting Kay Rogers at 613-326-0363, Donna Moodie at 613-267-3283, Nick Mulder at 613-264-8225, or Bart Poulter at 613-825-4658 or 613-558-4550. Please make your cheque payable to the Pike Lake Community Association.



# THE STATE OF PIKE LAKE & ITS WATERSHED REPORT: UPDATE

In May 2009, a Special Lake Stewardship Planning Edition of the Pike Lake Post provided you with a summary of the draft report on the State of Pike Lake & Its Watershed. Over the course of last summer, three community meetings were held to get your feedback on the draft report & to gauge the relative priority of the nine issues previously identified. All those who attended the community meetings were asked to select their top three issues which then became the priority for our community action plan. The priority issues selected are water quality (both lake water & ground water), conservation & protection of the natural environment, & developmental pressures. Other issues including growth of aquatic vegetation, impacts of motor vehicles, fisheries health, use of crown-owned islands, & water levels were seen as sub-issues of the three main concerns.

The Report has been completed & copies have been given to our partners including Tay Valley Township, the Township of Rideau Lakes, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, the Friends of the Tay Watershed, & the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. It will soon be posted on line at [www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)

The following highlights key points about the three priority issues.

## 1 Water Quality

Water quality data indicates Pike Lake has generally high concentrations of nutrients (phosphorus & nitrogen) contributed by human activity including faulty septic system runoff, use of fertilizers & removal of shoreline vegetation. These deteriorate water quality & contribute to excessive aquatic plant growth such as the increase in Eurasian water-milfoil in shallow bays & the increase in algae blooms like the extensive algae bloom in 2009.

- Did you know that one pound of phosphorous will grow 7-8 pounds of algae & 70-80 pounds of rooted aquatic plants. When these plants die in the fall, they decompose leaving a mass of vegetation on the lake bottom. Over time, this process leads to eutrophication. Simply expressed, the lake will die.
- The results from sampling Site D, which is between Pike Lake Rte 1 & Rte 17, have consistently shown high concentrations of total phosphorus & nitrogen flowing toward the lake. Donnelly Bay, the large bay that has its input at Site D, suffers from very high algae & aquatic plant growth.

Pike Lake's watershed has thin soil cover. Consequently, groundwater within the watershed is susceptible to surface contamination from land use activities, improperly sealed abandoned wells & faulty septic systems.

Lake water sampling analysis for bacterial contamination show bacterial counts do not pose a health concern for recreational & other water uses.

## 2 Conservation & Protection of the Natural Environment

Habitat loss through high-impact residential development, the removal of natural shoreline vegetation & a decline in water quality pose threats to fish & wildlife.

Testing for invasive species is ongoing. As of September 2009, neither zebra mussel veligers (a mobile, juvenile form of the mussel) nor spiny water flea had been detected on the lake. However, in 2008, water quality reports from Crosby Lake (which feeds into Pike Lake) indicated that zebra mussel veligers were identified in their water samples.

Boats which create large wakes can cause shoreline erosion & destroy waterfowl nesting sites. Some boats increase water, noise & air pollution. Also, if not properly cleaned, boats can introduce invasive species.

Concerns have been raised about the careless & unsustainable use of the 25 crown land islands for camping activity (littering, noise, denuding of vegetation, improper disposal of human waste, & the impact from large or unattended fires).

Pike Lake's watershed provides habitat for several identified species at risk including the Black Rat Snake, Least Bittern & Bald Eagle. These species are at risk primarily because of habitat destruction.

## 3 Development Pressures

As of 2007, there were 266 properties within 300 metres (984 feet) of the lake.

There is a growing trend to convert cottages to permanent homes on Pike Lake. Concerns have been expressed that, if permitted, secondary shoreline development, i.e. subdivisions (as found on other lakes) or second tier development could exceed the lake's natural capacity & thereby result in further deterioration of the natural landscape, water quality & overall health of Pike Lake.



# NOW IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT OUR PIKE LAKE STEWARDSHIP ACTION PLAN

During the Annual General Meeting on July 17, we will take some time to identify concrete actions that we, as individuals & as a lake community, can take to address our three main issues. We will also decide how best to implement the actions as well as how we, either as individuals or as part of a collaborative effort, could help implement part of the action plan.

Your input given during the 2009 consultations will be our starting point. To recap:

## Our Vision

*The Pike Lake community vision is to protect & improve the water quality, natural environment & tranquility of the Pike Lake Watershed for present & future generations*

### Elements of a Vision for the Pike Lake Watershed in 2029

- Healthy water, with no negative impacts of run-off & safe, contaminant-free drinking water
- Healthy, big trees & natural shoreline. Perhaps some protected wetlands
- Pike Lake as it is in 2009 or, even better, Pike Lake as it is in 2009 but with a reduced density of aquatic vegetation (including algae), a lower nutrient level, reduced light encroachment & reduced noise levels. Ideally, the lake would be free of invasive species.
- Undeveloped crown-owned islands, well respected by users
- A peaceful, natural environment
- Healthy & diverse fish & wildlife populations
- A strengthened sense of community, with a shared “code of conduct” for the use of shared resources



## Ideas for Action A Starting Point for Our Discussion At the July 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### 1. Water Quality, both surface & ground water

#### Data Collection & Analysis

- Ensure that data collected sufficiently describes the baseline water quality factors to consider in the health of the lake
- Ensure there are sufficient sampling sites (this may mean increasing the number of sites) & that factors having a negative effect on water quality can be identified. Areas sampled may be varied over time, perhaps using a floating site
- Analyze the water testing results for causes & sources of any problems. Once causes are found, find solutions without getting into blaming
- Develop a practical definition of water quality that is applicable to our watershed

#### Education

- Raise awareness of the importance of conservation & respect for the environment by property owners, renters & users of the lake & islands. Involve youth.
- Encourage shoreline naturalization & the use of replanting programs
- Educate people on boating regulations
- Educate people on the use of bio-degradable products
- Continue to promote healthy septic practices & voluntary septic re-inspection

#### Bylaws

- Become well informed about the bylaws (e.g. with respect to set-backs, septic systems, use of controlled substances) & how the Township enforces the bylaws
- Work with the Township to promote voluntary septic inspections, updating old septic systems & the appropriate practices with respect to controlled substances



## 2 Conservation & Protection of the Natural Environment

### Education

- Encourage awareness of the character of the ecosystem, including wildlife. This might include organizing interpretive tours on various topics (e.g., for kayakers or hikers), doing a “bio-blitz” as done on O’Brian Lake & posting interpretive information (e.g. on wetlands) at shore locations & on the PLCA website
- Promote the use of natural products (phosphorous-free, no pesticides or chemical fertilizers) as well as composting
- Promote maintenance, growth & diversity along the shoreline
- Promote the use of floating docks
- Encourage people to enjoy the dark night sky & understand the reasons why lighting should be minimized

### Naturalizing the Shoreline

- Develop a community initiative to restore / naturalize the shoreline

### Motor Boats

- Seek permission from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to put up buoys that mark a safe distance to stay from shore (primarily at places where safety of swimmers is an issue) & to post boating speed limit signs on crown lands.
- Encourage the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to do more site visits
- Educate people on ways to prevent the spread of invasive species & aquatic vegetation

### Public Access & Crown-owned Islands

- Post signs at the boat launch to encourage boat cleaning to reduce the risk of importing zebra mussels & to promote appropriate boat speeds
- Post signs on the crown-owned islands to encourage responsible use; e.g. fire safety, not cutting down trees, & leaving no litter / footprint
- Educate people on the negative impacts of strong boat wake on the erosion of shoreline

## 3 Development Pressures

### Liaison with the Township & Provincial Government

- Ask the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to complete & release capacity studies for Pike & Crosby Lakes
- Locate an inventory of vacant land, identify what has potential development & bring any concerns to the Township
- Request that Tay Valley Township involve the PLCA in consultations, & make use of lake capacity models, when assessing potential developments that could impact the lake. Such developments could include any changes in land use planning such as subdivisions & second tier development that could increase development pressures on the lake, & future plans for the Stanleyville Waste Site

### Education

- Provide an information package on stewardship practices to new property owners
- Provide information on the need for Township approvals for changes to cottage property



### **FAREWELL & KUDOS TO GEOFF MACE**

Geoff has decided it is time to step aside from his responsibilities as our Lake Steward.

The PLCA wishes to convey its deep appreciation to Geoff for his 10 years of service as our Lake Steward & for his overall leadership of our Association. Geoff kick started the process resulting in the State of the Lake Report – the basis for our nascent Lake Stewardship Action Plan.

Thank you Geoff for your demonstrable love of Pike Lake. Kudos to you! It’s been an honour & a pleasure to work with you. See you on the Lake!



## MEETING WITH TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO DISCUSS SITE D & THE STANLEYVILLE WASTE SITE

On May 18, Adrienne Fowlie, Bart Poulter & Kay Rogers represented the PLCA at a meeting with Tay Valley Township Council.

They acknowledged the summary report on the Pike Lake Watershed Watch & the Stanleyville Waste Site Monitoring Results prepared by Kathy Coulthart-Dewey, the Township CAO.

It was noted that:

- The water quality data at Site D, the bay on Pike Lake between Rte 1 & Rte 17, has shown high levels of phosphorous & nitrogen since 2001.
- Test results at the Stanleyville Waste Site are high for phosphorous, nitrogen & some other parameters.
- The test results do not show a direct cause & effect between the Stanleyville Waste Site & the high levels of nutrients at Site D on Pike Lake
- This is a complex issue which warrants further discussion.

Councillors acknowledged the legitimacy of the concern & referred the issue to Kathy Coulthart-Dewey to continue to work with the PLCA to ensure the free exchange of information & to identify what steps might be undertaken.

The PLCA is confident that open dialogue will lead to constructive results.



## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OCTOBER 25

Tay Valley Township plays an important role with respect to Pike Lake.

The May 18th meeting with Council regarding Site D on Pike Lake & the Stanleyville Waste Site Monitoring Results is one example.

Several draft recommendations for action speak to working with Tay Valley Township to address concerns.

Voting for Council members who recognize the significance of lake stewardship is vital.

If you are not sure if you are enumerated or if you have any questions regarding the upcoming municipal elections, call Tay Valley Township at 613-267-5353 & ask to speak to Rob or Joanne.

You can also find information on the Township website: [www.tayvalleytwp.ca](http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca)

## MINING ACT UPDATE

The Ontario Mining Amendment Act, Bill 173, received Royal Assent on October 28, 2009.

Effective April 30, 2009, all Surface Rights Only (SRO) land that was not staked was withdrawn from mining in Southern Ontario (south of Lake Nipissing & the French & Mattawa Rivers). On SRO land in Southern Ontario that has been staked, the land will be withdrawn from staking when the claims lapse.

During the consultations on the regulations that accompany the Act, the PLCA & others advocated:

- Establishment of a time limit on the length of time SRO land can be staked
- Consultation which respects the property rights of land owners, the Ontario Planning Act & the Official Plan of municipalities when mining is being considered on Crown land
- Environmental safeguards during exploration & restoration requirements post exploration
- The Awareness Program for prospectors be expanded to encompass exploration personnel & that the course be vetted by a broad-based steering committee

There will be ongoing dialogue over the next 3-5 years on the development & implementation of the regulations, programs, policies & procedures.



## WE ALL BENEFIT FROM JOINING THE PIKE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- Lake Stewardship Guidance & Planning
- Water Testing
- Voice into Tay Valley Township, RVCA, OPP, & the Lake Networking Group
- History
- Pike Lake Post
- Quality of Pike Lake Community Life

**Memberships can be mailed in, or paid at the Annual General Meeting.**

**See enclosed membership form.**

Membership fees only \$20 for 1 year, \$40 for 2 years or \$60 for 3 years.

**Moving?** Don't forget to put us on your Address Change list so we can keep you 'Pike-posted.' Send your membership form & address changes to:

**Pike Lake Community Association  
RR #3, Perth, Ontario K7H 3C5**

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2009

Mandy Bjerklund, Treasurer

**Opening Balance Jan.1, 2009**      **1,946.39**

### Revenue

Memberships*	1,980.00
Donations	455.00
50/50 draw	194.00
Bank Interest	1.93
Stamps on hand	<u>3.00</u>
	<b>2,633.93</b>

### Expenses

AGM, refreshments	20.21
AGM, printing	69.67
AGM, postage, copies	205.32
Community meetings supplies	579.01
Fed. of Ont. Cott. Assoc.	483.00
Fire Dept. Donation	100.00
Stamps	3.00
Bank Charges	<u>1.50</u>
	<b>(1,461.71)</b>

**Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2009**      **\$4428.72**

\* Memberships include \$60 for 2011 & \$20 for 2012

## ENJOY THE DARK NIGHT SKY

Artificial lighting spoils the night sky. It bothers your neighbours, wastes energy & confuses nocturnal animals. Some shy predators shun lit areas because they need dark passageways to go from one hunting field to another. Other animals take advantage of light to forage or hunt. For example, moths cluster around lights offering a feast for bats, but that banquet skews the natural balance of bat species.

Cut light pollution around your house or cottage by choosing the lowest possible wattage, adding shields that point lamps downward & keeping the outside lights off unless needed.



Source: Otty Lake 2010 Calendar

