

# The Pike Lake Community Association History

As told by the late Audrey Cook

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The Association is made up of residents and cottagers as well as those who enjoy Pike Lake and Grants Creek and surrounding environment.

The Association was initially formed in the early 1960s when a group of men who had been shoring up the old stone dam at the Grants Creek approached the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to have a new dam constructed. MNR required that a lake association be in place for this request to be met. As a result, Sylvester McNamee, Walter McNamee, Lenny McGlade, Johnnie Wilson, Harold Pratt, Norber (Nork) O'Reilly and a few others formed the Pike Lake Association with Nork as President, Harold as vice-president, and Lenny as secretary. The new dam was built in 1970 along with public access, as stipulated by MNR. Although these men hadn't intended for the Association to continue past the construction of the dam, for, one assumes, a variety of reasons the Association continued to exist.

Annual meetings, which normally take place in July, were held first at St. Bridget's Church Hall in Stanleyville, later at Camp Cameron, which was owned by Gerald Greenslade at the time, and more recently at the old Burgess Township Hall on the Narrows Lock Road. During the years in the AGM was held at Camp Cameron, there was a social gathering following the meeting. For several years, Marty van Gaal organized gold tournaments at Mapleview following the AGM. In 1999, Adrienne Fowlie helped with games for the children at the conclusion of the AGM.

Pat Shore relates that his favourite story regarding the Association occurred around the late '70s early '80s, when he first became involved. The Association deleted from its rules the requirement that at least one of the executives had to be an American. This was reflective of the time!

In 1989, Mill Nasi produced a scale map of Pike Lake showing all the roads and properties, coupled with a list of all people who owned property on the lake at the time.

As a bit of history, it should be pointed out that in the 1990s, Al Hnatiuk, Tom Borthwick, James Cole, and Wylie Stewart served as president. Some issues of the time were the gypsy moth, fish surveys, fire route signs, septic inspections, zebra mussel awareness, and membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA).

Some of these issues continue to be of concern today.

In 1994, Rob Bone published the first edition of the Pike Lake Post. This initiative was very popular, editions of the Post were either mailed or hand-delivered by volunteers twice a year. Today, the Post is produced one a year, typically in June.

For many years, the Association supported the Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environment (MAPLE), a non-profit environmental organization incorporated in 1987 to promote preservation of the natural lake environments. It promotes the restoration and enhancement of waterfronts by encouraging natural regeneration and initiating re-vegetation of shore land. The Association provided financial support and helped at their "cutting" days at Christie Lake Camp in October and planting days in May. Members who helped include Barbara Cordukes, Fleurette Potvin, Norma Ellis, and Ric Cormier. Although MAPLE suspended its program of supplying plant cuttings, its Website provides important and practical information on shoreline assessment and restoration.

Although lake stewardship had not yet become a formalized concept, the Association started doing water testing for phosphorous in 1974. In 1993, Hal Lily was serving as the unofficial lake steward, as well as doing water testing. In 1999, Hal Davies and George Sanson conducted shoreline improvements in addition to water testing.

The 2000s brought a more formal interest in lake stewardship. At the 2005 AGM, unanimous approval was given to work on a lake management plan. The "D" grade the lake received in water testing done under the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's Watershed Watch Program was a call to action. Geoff Mace, our lake steward, was the chairperson of a steering committee consisting of Cathy Camerson, Victor Konrad, Adrienne Folwie, and Aili Kurtis. Not long thereafter, Gord McCallum, Bart Poulter, Pat Shore, and John Wilson became actively involved, as did Ric Cormier, Jane Linday, Dennis Poley, and Kay Rogers. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work of Bart Poulter in particular, the able assistance of Adrea Klymko of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the support of our Community Partners and the Lake Management Planning Program, as well as our founders for their financial contributions to this project. Thanks are extended to all for their years of hard work and time spent on this landmark initiative.

In 2010, this committee produced a report, The State of Pike Lake and Its Watershed. This report provides a description of the lake and its watershed and information on the health of the lake, and highlights nine issues identified during the consultations. There were later pulled together under three overarching priority issues: water quality, conservation and protection of the natural environment, and development pressures. The findings of this report coupled with consultations held in 2010 on concrete actions that we, as individuals and as a lake community, can take to address the priority issues, will inform the lake stewardship action plan, which will be finalized and distributed in 2011. The Pike Lake Community Vision is to protect and improve the water quality, natural environment, and tranquility of the Pike Lake watershed for present and future generations. No doubt, our vision and priority areas for action will be the basis for Association planning for the foreseeable future.

As a result of the community meetings, held during the development of the report, the name of the Association was changed from the Pike Lake Property Owners Association to the The Pike Lake Community Association. This decision was taken in 2009 to better reflect the variety of people who enjoy and are interested in the lake. Today, membership is encouraged by all those who enjoy Pike Lake.

The Association did not have a president or secretary from 2003 to 2010 so the responsibilities were shared among the executive and other volunteers, Geoff Mace chaired the AGM, Nancy Johnson served as secretary. At the 2010 AGM, a full executive slate was elected with Kay Rogers as the president. Our current Executive's priorities include reinvigoration the Association Website, updating the constitution, expanding the membership, promoting the implementation of at least one lake stewardship action annually, and restarting the tradition of an annual community social cum educational event.

Many people have devoted their time and skills to lake activities over the decades. It would be difficult to name everyone, but their work has always been valued and appreciated. In addition to those noted above, some of the many families who helped in the work of the lake include the Cordukeses, Davieses, Fowlies, Greenslades, Hnatiuks, Lilys, Moodies, Northwicks, Piches, Robertses, Roscoes, Shores, and Squires. I would also like to acknowledge Mandy Bjerklund, who has served on the executive for twenty four years. Apologies are extended to those whose names have been omitted!

A book could be written about Association activities over the years, but this brief overview of the work done by those who did so much for the lake is a tribute to them. May we continue to cherish Pike Lake and to keep it as healthy and beautiful as we find it today.