

Pike Lake Post

July 2003

Note from the President.

Summer's here at last and I hope you all enjoy the time you will spend on the lake. We try to spend as much time as we can at our cottage but week-ends are never long enough, even if we leave at 6am Monday morning.

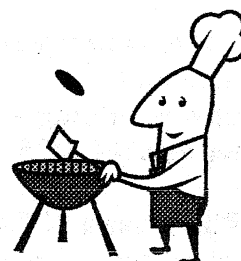
This years AGM is August 9th at the Old Burgess Township Hall starting at 10am.sharp. Coffee will be served from 9 30 onwards to allow you all to catch up with this years news.

We are not planning any social events this year but are open for suggestion and will support anything the membership wish to organize.

As usual we are looking for more of you to join our executive please contact me if you are interested. We are pleased to announce we have found a Secretary, a big thank you **Jean Moss** who joins us this year.

Hope to see you at the meeting
Caroline Tibbles.

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L 264 5596

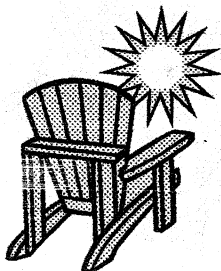


Membership Report

The number of properties included in the Pike Lake database now stands at 215. A few of these are vacant lots. The number of paid members in 2002 was 132 (over 60%) Membership renewals for 2003 were sent out with the Pike Lake Post last February. The newsletter was sent out to all paid up members, and to owners who had been members over the past five years. As our database includes over 80 email addresses, these were used and postage saved to distribute the newsletter. Another 92 newsletters were surface mailed out.

Paid up membership for 2003 now stands at 67. It is expected that more memberships will be paid when the newsletters are hand delivered around the lake, and also at the AGM on 9th August. If you like, the \$15 annual membership can be paid for two years at a time.

Dale Crook



Please attach the "Help Keep Pike Lake Clean" magnet to your fridge to help owners and renters become aware of good lake practices.

In 2001, your Lake Stewardship team was created to deal with the wide variety of issues relating to the health of our lake. The team and responsibilities for 2002 are:

Geoff Mace, Lake Steward

Wylie Stewart and George Sansom –
Lake Partner program

Audrey Cook – Invasive Species

Phil Tibbles – Septic tank issues

John Wilson – Watershed Watch
measurement

Orest Roscoe – Pike Lake representative
to related organizations

**Others interested in helping – please
call Geoff Mace 613.264.3375**

**RVCA gives Pike Lake a "C" grade
for 2002 – weed growth a problem**

Better than the D grade in 2001 but there are still strong indications that nutrients are continuing to build in Pike Lake.

The Watershed Watch water quality measurement program provides an overall grade based on five

characteristics. The results for 2002 indicate that Pike Lake remains good in terms of our low levels of E. coli. and the lack of evidence of zebra mussels. Also, our lake clarity (Secchi) was much better than 2001 when everyone likely remembers the "green slime".

However, phosphorus and nitrogen levels are quite high and we continue to receive more and more complaints about weed growth that leads to unsuitable swimming in many bays. Pike Lake bays are infested with the weed "Eurasian Water Millfoil" which is not natural. We recommend not trying to pull or cut this weed as any "bit" will lead to greater proliferation.

Since we are all Lake Stewards and responsible for our own lake, individually there are many things we can do to improve lake quality. Please continue to:

- **Keep lots well treed and preserve or re-plant native vegetation along the shoreline. MAPLE can help (Box 271 Perth ON K7H 3E4)**
- **Pump out your septic tank every three to five years and have the tank and field inspected periodically**
- **Reduce water use and use only phosphate free soaps and detergents**
- **Keep the size of the lawn to a minimum and do not use fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides**
- **For the prevention of invading species, remind all users to wash boats and equipment before it enters the lake (signs are posted at the boat launch)**

Dishwashers using phosphate detergents and lawn fertilizers appear to be the biggest contributors to nutrient buildup. If we all examine our own properties and habits and make the necessary changes, we can have a positive impact.

Geoff Mace

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