



## DALHOUSIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

### Message from the President

I'm sure you are all longing for those summer days, warm breezes, evening bonfires, barbecues and get-togethers with family and friends. Even the word summer makes us smile, especially if you are one of the lucky ones to own a property on beautiful Dalhousie Lake. I think summer is about building memories and re-living activities of past summers. I remember the ski show and chicken barbecue that was held on the south shore for many years. My mother-in-law remembered dancing to the fiddle on a cement platform some 60 years ago. On Saturday nights at Sylvania Lodge you had to stand in line to get in so you could tap your toe to the piano tunes. Each summer, every family on the lake continues to build their own memories and hopefully some of these memories will be of watching a baby loon grow over the summer, seeing a bald eagle for the first time, listening to frogs croak and quiet canoe rides of contemplation.

We are teaching the next generation respect for nature. I believe all lake residents have a deep concern for the health of our lake so the next generation will be able to create great memories also.

In October the lake association executive attended the Lake Links meeting and we left the meeting feeling that we learned many things we can do to protect our lake for future generations such as using eco-friendly cleaning products that are biodegradable and chemical-free, purchasing four-stroke engines for our boats, re-planting the shoreline using native plants to prevent erosion, having septic tanks pumped regularly, to name a few ideas. The association purchased a book published by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority "On the Living Edge" which is available to lend out to members who are interested in learning how to protect this fragile eco-system.

Building "lake memories" is not only about keeping our environment clean and healthy but also about having fun and building a sense of community. The executive of the association organized a Family Fun Day the last two years with tours of High Falls and mini-youth envirothons but unfortunately attendance was low both years. We need ideas and volunteers if you feel this type of activity is worth while. Maybe smaller section get-togethers such as the barbecue held each year by the 10<sup>th</sup> line would be possible. We're also considering a boat flotilla on Canada Day. Please come to our meetings this summer with ideas and consider volunteering a few hours of your time to make these events happen. It's a great way to meet people on the lake and have fun at the same time.

This year the association executive has continued to work represent your interests at township council and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. We are in contact with Gord Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor at Mississippi Valley Conservation especially when water is rising to keep our members informed. We have attended meetings on Land Use Planning and Development around lakes to make ourselves knowledgeable so that we can keep you informed. The association will take part in the Lake Loon Survey again this year and an email was already sent out promoting the idea of constructing floating loon nesting platforms. We will also participate in the Water Temperature Study over the long weekend in August, as we did last year.

The executive held the first planning session for the upcoming summer meetings. The meetings for members are scheduled:

- o June 23rd – Business meeting to discuss events and meeting planned for summer – Sylvania Lodge, Dalhousie Lake.
- o July 28<sup>st</sup> – Information Meeting – Mera Hall – Guest Speaker – Susan Lee – Water Quality Technician M.V.C. – State of the Lake Report – 2006.
- o Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting – Mera Hall

An agenda for each meeting will be posted on our website [www.dlai.ca](http://www.dlai.ca) and at the bulletin board situated beside the boat launch at Sylvania Lodge.

Any successful association requires members and funds in order to carry out its mandate. Our membership drive will take place throughout May, June and the first part of July. As we did last year we are sending you this newsletter by mail as it is extremely difficult and very time-consuming to try and contact everyone in person. Our membership fee remains at \$15.00 as approved by members at the AGM August 2006. Please make your cheque payable to Dalhousie Lake Association Inc. and mail it to your director as soon as possible. Your director will issue you a receipt.

*Why join a lake association? Here are some reasons I feel are important for your consideration:*

- *Your lake association acts as a liaison between the various agencies (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Township of Lanark Highlands, Ministry of Natural Resources, etc.) and our members. We e-mail or phone our members with pertinent information concerning water levels, events, meetings, etc. If Dalhousie Lake does not have an association these agencies do not know who to contact and important information does not get communicated.*
- *We organize information meetings for members only with speakers who are knowledgeable on specific topics that members have told us they need to know more about.*
- *Your association believes in creating a “lake community” where you know your neighbours, therefore we are committed to organizing a social event once a summer.*
- *The executive attends meetings to get ideas and learn about projects, e.g. Lake Management Plans, that we think our members might be interested in getting involved in.*
- *We attend council meetings if topics are being discussed pertaining to the Mississippi River Watershed, Dalhousie Lake in particular.*
- *The association is interested in preserving and improving the ecosystem of our lake through education, however the association is not a watchdog for other agencies. In the past the executive has arranged for environmental experts from Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, The Ministry of the Environment and The Ministry of Health to speak to all members about environmental concerns.*
- *You would find it valuable to visit the association website at [www.dlai.ca](http://www.dlai.ca) for more information about the association. A lock on our web site restricts certain information to members only.*

*There is strength in numbers. My vision would be to have all residences become members to ensure a strong positive voice for Dalhousie Lake. Let's become an enthusiastic, informed lake community. Your membership gives you a voice.*

If you have any questions about the association, please contact the director for your section.

DLAI Executive

Directors

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Secretary    **Vacant – We desperately need a volunteer to fill this position!!**

WebMaster    Christine Stewart

Judy Hall, President  
Dalhousie Lake Association Inc.