



DALHOUSIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Message from the President

Welcome to the summer of 2008 on Dalhousie Lake. I think we all deserve a beautiful, relaxing summer after a very 'snowy' winter and the threat of flooding this past spring.

'Living by the water' can be both challenging and rewarding. We all enjoy the rewards of clean water, sunrises, sunsets, peaceful loon calls, skiing, tubing, boating, fishing, barbecues and other family fun. On an idyllic summer afternoon we want to focus on the rewards of cottage life but we are also this ecosystem's protectors. Thinking about the environment is so important when one is residing close to a body of water. What we do to our properties and put into the lake could affect generations to come or possibly last forever. Striking a balance between enjoying our properties and protecting the environment may mean becoming better informed and then doing the right thing

Sometimes it can be overwhelming when you think about potential uranium mining, water pollution, climate change, algae blooms etc. At a recent workshop I attended, one of the speakers suggested that if everyone did just one little thing to help the environment that together we could make a big difference. So this summer I'm asking you to consider doing 'one thing' to protect this fragile ecosystem. Get your kids involved in a garbage clean up day, plant native species or leave at least 50% of your shoreline in it's natural state, use low phosphorous detergents and soaps, avoid fertilizers or use phosphate free fertilizers, keep shampoos and soaps out of the lake, maintain your septic system, become informed about issues that are facing the watershed by attending a lake association meeting. These changes don't take much time and if we all do 'just one thing' it could make a big difference to ensure that we enjoy the rewards of cottage living for years to come. If you are interested in learning more about what you can do, the association has an excellent book to lend out called 'On the Living Edge – Your Handbook for Waterfront Living'.

This year the association has continued to represent your interests at the township council and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. Brian Stewart, councilor for ward 6 and I were in daily contact with Gord Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor at the MVCA when the threat of severe flooding seemed inevitable in the spring and an information meeting for members was arranged with MVCA. We are presently in contact with the Ministry of the Environment regarding their website which, if working properly, would allow members to access water levels directly from the monitoring station at the foot of the lake. At the present, the data for Dalhousie Lake is not being displayed as it connects via a cell modem and cell service is usually not available at that location. We will continue to press for this to be corrected as we feel it would be a great service for our members.

We will continue with the loon survey and water temperature study this summer. Also arrangements are being made for water testing – one in June and one in September. We will be testing for e-clo and some heavy metals – as yet to be determined by the testing lab. Results will be available in the fall.

The executive have planned for the following summer meetings and activities:

- July 12th Information meeting - Mera Hall 10:00 am
 - o Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority – Paul Lehman – General Manager
Learn how they can assist you, who to contact etc.
 - o M.E.R.A (McDonald's Corners Elphin Recreation Association)
MERA has some great summer programs to make you aware of.
 - o Investors Group – Tell Wills
How to avoid capitals gains on disposal of your cottage property
- June 29th Flotilla to celebrate Canada Day
Everyone that participated last year had a lot of fun – so decorate your boat of any kind and join us on the lake at 3:00pm
- Aug 23rd Annual general meeting – Mera Hall 10:00am

An agenda for each meeting will be posted on our website 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 from mid June to mid 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.

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 for more information about the association.*

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.

Executive 2008

Section 1	Head of the Lake	Kirk Roberstson kirk@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-2228 Home 905-792-3095
Section 2	North Shore Road	Jim Brown jim@dlai.ca	Home 613-292-1236
Section 3	Sugar Bush Hill	Ron Jones (VP) ron@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-0267 Home 613-264-8680
Section 4	Purdon's Bay	Kerri-Anne Hogan kerri-anne@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-1232 Home 613-599-8272
Section 5	Hall Shore Road Leslie Drive	Judy Hall (PR) judy@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-0647 Home 613-278-0647
Section 6	10 th Line	Susan Mitchell susan@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-2094 Home 613-816-1952
	At Large	Joyce Spratt joyce@dlai.ca	Lake 613-278-2620 Home 613-278-2620
Treasurer		Pat Jones	
Secretary		Vacant	
Web Master		Christine Stewart	

Judy Hall, President
Dalhousie Lake Association Inc.