



DALHOUSIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Message from the President

As I am writing this newsletter it is 34c - two weeks ago it snowed - and the lake levels are at a record low. Rocks are poking up in places where we didn't know they existed. The lake is very quiet as people can't get their boats in and docks are becoming islands. Is this the effects of climate change?

This low water level is area wide but because the lake shelters and protects so many wetland creatures it is a concern for all of us. We can only hope that this summer will be rainy and next winter snowy to replenish the systems water supply. So don't be disheartened when it rains on your holidays – just listen for mother earth to give a big sigh.

At the lake links meeting this year interpreting and using water quality results was the main topic presented and discussed. Most lakes have done some water quality testing including Dalhousie which was tested for e.coli and total phosphorous in 2008. The members at the AGM last year felt we needed baseline measurements as predictors for any change that might occur in the future so we will continue to do the testing for e.coli and phosphorus this summer.

The Lake Partners Program advocates Secchi disk measurement of water clarity. Sudden increases in water quality may indicate population explosions of zebra mussels. Testing has shown that zebra mussel larvae are present in our lake but not adults so far. My research shows that low levels of calcium in a lake will not allow the zebra mussel larvae to grow to the adult stage – that is a very good thing! I think it would be worthwhile to take secchi disk readings a couple of time each summer – I will send the results of all water testing by email this fall. If you don't have email and wish a copy of either or both, please call me at 613-278-0647 or check the bulletin board

We will continue with the loon survey and water temperature study this summer. I am also hoping for the preliminary results of the broad scale fishing study done last summer to arrive in time for the AGM in August.

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

- July 1st Flotilla to celebrate Canada Day (rain date July 3rd)
Decorate your boat of any kind and join us on the lake at 1:00pm. If you haven't got a boat, decorate your dock – prizes will be awarded.
- July 10th Information meeting - Mera Hall 10:00 am
 - o A series of public meetings were held this spring on the township budget process and the public was able to voice their concern over the high taxes in Lanark Highlands. As some of you live outside the area but pay taxes in Lanark Highlands, the executive thought we should give you a chance to voice your concerns and suggestions for future budgets. We will be inviting a representative from the newly formed ratepayers association, a representative from the township and ward 6 councilor Brian Stewart to answer your questions.

- Aug 21st Annual General Meeting – Mera Hall 10:00am.

An agenda for each meeting will be sent by email and posted at the bulletin board situated beside the boat launch at Sylvania Lodge. Just a reminder to check the bulletin board frequently for lake level advisories, meeting minutes and any other postings of pertinent information especially if you don't have email or are away from your computer while at the cottage.

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. If you wish to become a member for 2010/11, please send your membership fee promptly in order to keep your name in the database for e-mails and mailouts.

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.*

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 2010

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Section 5	Hall Shore Road Leslie Drive	Judy Hall (PR) halljw@sympatico.ca	Lake 613-278-0647 Home 613-278-0647
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Treasurer		Pat Jones	
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Judy Hall, President
Dalhousie Lake Association Inc.