



DALHOUSIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Message from the President

Do you love your lake? We all feel privileged to own a property on a lake. We love the peace and quiet, the relaxed feeling you have as you sit on your dock watching the sunsets, the haunting sound of a loon call, clear water, canoeing on an early summer morning, connecting with nature and making memories with family and friends around a campfire.

In answer to my question, we all love our lake and can't wait for summer to begin but along with owning your own little piece of heaven comes a big responsibility to protect it. I believe all lake residents have a deep concern for the continuing good health of our lake so the next generation will be able to come to Dalhousie Lake and enjoy the things we treasure.

Climate change is affecting our lake in ways we feel powerless to change. Warmer waters change the type of fish we have in the lake and droughts in summer lower water levels and cause more sunlight to reach deeper into the water promoting plant growth. Wind and torrential rain cause erosion and sometimes make the lake treacherous. Forest fires destroy trees and change landscapes. Climate change and how it affects our waterways and communities continues to be a 'hot' topic amongst lake communities. Sometimes it leaves us feeling powerless to effect change but I believe if everyone did just one little thing this summer to help our own lake environment, we could make a big difference.

Think about protecting your shoreline – it is referred to as the 'ribbon of life' as it is where 90% of all lake and river life is born. If you feel you want to naturalize your shoreline you could plant a buffer zone of native vegetation which will slow erosion, provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife species and protect your property and investment. If this is something you are interested in doing, call Alyson Symon (613-259-3468/asymon@mvc.on.ca) at Mississippi Valley Conservation to find out more about this Shoreline Restoration Program.

Watch Your Wake! Breeding water birds nest at the water's edge where high wakes can drown nests and destroy eggs. Please operate your boat at 10k/hr whenever you are within 30 meters of the shore.

Try to avoid polluting with oil and gas spills and chemicals entering the lake when you are filling gas tanks.

You and your family can come up with more ideas to protect this ecosystem that would be personal to you. With careful consideration to the needs of the plant and animal species with which we share our lakefront properties we can make a difference to ensure we and generations to follow will always have a 'summer place' to come to where we can relax and have fun.

Let me know how you 'Loved Your Lake' this summer and I will share your ideas and fun with the rest of our members.

The DLAI executive attended workshops (Lake Links and Lake Networking) to connect with other associations, create contacts, get ideas and to consider what projects we would like to tackle in the future. We also met in May to plan our meetings for this summer. They are as follows:

- o July 13th – Information Meeting – 10:00am MERA Hall – Guest Speakers –

Mark Green, Senior Public Health Inspector and Chief Building Official, Health Unit – topic septic system maintenance

Paul Lehman – General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority – topic Mississippi Water Management Plan.

Waterpower producers and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have completed a new water management plan that strikes a balance among various environmental, social and economic objectives and takes into account the uses and users that are affected by changes in water levels and flows

- o Aug. 17th – Annual General Meeting – 10:00 am MERA Hall – Guest Speaker – Constable David Blair, Ontario Provincial Police – topic How To Protect Your Property

This is our business meeting where our financial report is presented, directors are elected and ideas are presented for next year's initiatives.

An agenda for each meeting will be sent to you by email and posted at the bulletin board situated beside the boat launch at Sylvania Lodge. Please try to attend these meetings to show support for the DLAI executive who work hard to plan these meetings and bring this information to you.

As you aware, Brian Forrester puts on a spectacular fire works display at the foot of the lake each Canada Day weekend. This year it will be on Saturday June 29th. This is a great event for our community especially lake residents who can sit in their boat or on their dock and enjoy the fabulous display. If you can contribute to the fireworks to show your appreciation, just include it with your membership fee.

Any successful association requires members and funds in order to carry out its mandate. Our membership drive will take place throughout 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. Our membership fee remains at \$15.00 as approved by members at the AGM August 2012. Please make your cheque payable to Dalhousie Lake Association Inc. and mail it to your director as soon as possible. Your director can issue you a receipt if you wish.

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 try to organize 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 dlai.ca or the bulletin board beside the boat launch at Sylvania Lodge 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 2013

Section 1	Head of the Lake	Judy Hall (Temporary) halljw@sympatico.ca	Lake 613-278-0647 Home 613-278-0647
Section 2	North Shore Road	Jim Brown jamesbrown1@igs.net	Lake 613-292-1236 Home 613-257-4245
Section 3	Sugar Bush Hill	Bruce Patrick bruce.patrick2@sympatico.ca	Lake 613-278-2650 Home 613-729-7031
Section 4	Purdon's Bay	Rick Dunn rickcathydunn@hotmail.com	Lake 613-278-1257 Home 613-278-1257
Section 5	Hall Shore Road Leslie Drive	Judy Hall (President) halljw@sympatico.ca	Lake 613-278-0647 Home 613-278-0647
Section 6	10 th Line	Carol Thivierge (Secretary/Treasurer) yanny26@sympatico.ca	Lake 613-278-2295 Home 613-224-3020
	At Large	Diane Bennett dbennett@bell.net	Lake 613-278-2772 Home 613-278-2772

Have a great safe summer – see you on the lake!

Judy Hall, President
Dalhousie Lake Association Inc.