



News and Information from Kashwakamak Lake Association

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

This wonderful summer has passed all too quickly and now the golden days of fall are with us.

I am delighted to welcome three new directors to our Board: Bob Osborne (Brown’s Bay), Sue Davies (Silver Mine) and Lynn Meijer (South Shore) who were acclaimed at our AGM in July (see separate report). We now have representation from most areas of the lake. Lynn is taking over as Editor of the Kash Kourier and Carol Shepherdson will be doing the desktop publishing.

Our volunteers in the Loon Watch and Adopt-a-Road programs were again busy this summer. Our Dinner/Auction at Aragain on September 17th was co-chaired by Jean-Anne Houle and Carmen Smith and was another excellent evening. Our thanks go to these ladies and to Al MacGregor who was MC for the evening.

This is our social event of the year and we all have a great time but it also gives us an opportunity to support the local Food Bank and Community Services (see report).

Some of you will have been chosen to participate in the septic system inspection program this fall. Next year it is hoped that the program will be in full swing and done earlier in the season.

I and all the Board wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a good winter. See you back at the lake next summer. ~~~

Elma MacLachlan

IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Corner..... 1
 Property Taxes in our Township..... 2
 WRAFT Update 2
 North Frontenac Waterfront Property Owners
 Coalition (NFLPOC)..... 2
 Adopt-A-Road..... 2
 Treasurer’s Notes 3
 Membership 3
 Crown Land Stewardship Program..... 3
 FEP (Frontenac Environmental Partnership) 4
 Dinner/Silent Auction 4
 Invasive Species..... 4
 Lake Stewardship..... 5
 Mississippi River Water Management Plan..... 5
 On-site Wastewater Disposal System Inspection ... 5
 Annual General Meeting..... 5
 Weiss Point News (east end of Kashwakamak).... 6
 South Shore Report..... 6

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PROPERTY TAXES IN OUR TOWNSHIP

WRAFT Update

WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) continues in its efforts to achieve reforms in the Ontario tax system that will be fairer for waterfront property owners. Their report for the summer of 2005, however, is somewhat pessimistic. In fact, they have become concerned that “no serious study of reforms is underway” and that there is “no indication that the 2005 assessment is going to be deferred.” As a result, they believe that waterfront property taxes will most certainly go up substantially once again in 2006.

Their efforts over the past summer have included an aggressive advertising campaign, meetings with various MPPs, production of a new brochure for general distribution, and the commissioning of an IPSOS Reid survey to examine general attitudes toward the need for property tax reform. In addition, articles have appeared in *Cottage Life*, the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, and various local publications, all of which have helped them become better known. But they continue to appeal to member associations to have their individual members write their MPPs where they live and vote.

The letter sent by the Kashwakamak Lake Association Board of Directors received a thoughtful and generally sympathetic reply from Leona Dombrowsky, the MPP for this area. Ms. Dombrowsky forwarded our letter to Finance Minister Sobrara and asked him to respond directly to us. So far we have not received a response from him. I know that a number of our members (including yours truly) also sent individual letters to Ms. Dombrowsky with similar results.

DID YOU WRITE OR CONTACT YOUR MPP THIS SUMMER? It is still not too late! If you are concerned at all about the escalating property taxes which you are paying, please contact your MPP. Pressed for time? Then use the form letter which was enclosed with last spring’s mailing. All you need is an envelope and a 50 cent stamp! So please, make your voice heard. If enough cottage owners from all across the province raise their voices, our concerns will surely be heard!

Finally, please take a few minutes to check out the WRAFT website at www.wraft.com. You will learn a great deal more about the various activities of WRAFT than we can possibly convey within the confines of our newsletter. ☺

Ian Brash

North Frontenac Waterfront Property Owners Coalition (NFLPOC)

This rather unwieldy title describes a coalition of some of the lake and road associations in the area (including KLA). Initiated by the Mazinaw Property Owners’ Association, its mandate is to serve as a forum for information sharing and joint action and to speak as a single voice on issues of common concern.

Of immediate concern is the issue of municipal taxation. Financial experts from Mazinaw, along with Bill Zerter from Kashwakamak South Shore Road Association, have reviewed and analyzed the 2005 Budgets of both North Frontenac and Addington Highlands Townships. (Mazinaw and Buckshot Lakes are located in both townships).

There are several areas which require clarification and explanation: *eg* Reserve Fund (N.F.), Administration Costs (N.F.), Roads (N.F. & A.H.) and long-term planning. To this end, the Coalition has tried to achieve greater dialog with the Mayor and Council/Budget Committee for 2006 Budget.

At the September 22nd Council Meeting they made a Budget Presentation, which included recommendations for the 2006 Budget. Council needs to be aware that their budgets are going to be scrutinized and that increased assessments do not provide a “gold mine” to be spent at will.

On the other hand, the root of the problem is at the Provincial level where the unfair taxation system puts the burden on waterfront property owners. Therefore we should not relax in our efforts to make our MPPs aware that some relief must be given. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

ADOPT-A-ROAD

We had a great turnout for the annual clean up of the Lake Kashwakamak Road. Approximately a dozen people were able to come out to help. The time these volunteers took out of their vacation to work is greatly appreciated. We should be able to continue this annual effort that keeps our road beautiful. Ken and Joan Lindey once again generously hosted a BBQ after the work was done. Nature cooperated and the day was perfect weather-wise. Thanks again to all involved! ☺

Roger Guilbert

TREASURER'S NOTES

Membership

I'm pleased to report that as of September 22, our membership stands at 353 families which is roughly two thirds of the total Kashwakamak Lake population. It was especially pleasing to have the South Shore Road Association with approximately 100 members once again join "en masse." So a special thanks to Bill Zerter and Lynn Meijer for helping to make that happen! It is equally pleasing to note that, geographically, our Board of Directors now represents the entire lake. In fact, only 5 of the 10 directors remain from the original Barrie Township area where the Lake Association originated. It would seem that our organization has truly become - as a former president, Al MacGregor, visualized it - the *Kashwakamak Lake Association!*

Now, how do we get our message to the approximately 200 families who are still not members? Again, we appeal to all of you to "spread the word." If you have neighbours who are not members, just get their name and mailing address to me and I will send them all the information, including a complimentary newsletter.

You might mention the low yearly fees of only \$10 per family, but you don't even need to collect it. I'll do that too. Remember, our strength really is directly proportional to our membership base, so please take every opportunity to help us to keep growing! ☺

Ian Brash

Crown Land Stewardship Program

Several of you have asked me for an update about this program as it relates to the supervision of campsites on the crown land islands of our lake. As you know, a few years ago we had many complaints concerning the degradation of campsites, late-night parties with corresponding noise, etc. Since the Township assumed responsibility for supervising these campsites, the problems seem to have greatly diminished and, needless to say, we are all anxious for that happy state to continue. Consequently, I wrote to the Township asking for a written reply to a number of questions so I am able to pass on to you the information which I subsequently received from Brenda Defosse, Township Clerk.

The program is still in place with the Township applying to the Ministry each year for a Land Use Permit. Campsites are checked as regularly as possible, generally once per day. There is a manager and two student assistants who start in mid June and work until the last week of August. When a camper purchases a permit, they are provided with a list of the rules of use. If you observe any unwarranted activity on a site, you should notify the

Township Office as soon as possible at 479-2231. If possible, give them the date and the campsite number, since the camper(s) occupying that site for that time are on registration. Similarly, call the Township if you see anyone camping on a non-designated site. Finally, Brenda mentioned that the Township is open to suggestions that anyone wishes to submit. ☺

Ian Brash

WINTER DUMP HOURS	
(OCTOBER 15, 2005 TO MAY 2006)	
(as posted on the North Frontenac website)	
<u>Cloyne Site</u>	
Sunday	9 am - 4 pm
Wednesday	1 pm - 4 pm
Friday	9 am - 12 noon
<u>506 Site</u>	
Monday	12 noon - 4 pm
Holiday Monday	12 noon - 4 pm
Thursday	9 am - 1 pm
Friday	1 pm - 4 pm
Saturday	12 noon - 4 pm
<u>Kashwakamak Site</u>	
Sunday	12 noon - 4 pm
Holiday Monday	12 noon - 4 pm
<u>Plevna Site</u>	
Sun., Wed., & Friday	10 am - 4 pm
<u>Ardoch Site</u>	
Thurs., & Sat.	10 am - 3 pm
<u>Mississippi Site</u>	
Tuesday & Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
<u>Ompah Site</u> (Please note that on holiday weekends, The Ompah Site is closed on Sundays and open on the Holiday Monday)	
Tuesday & Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Thursday & Sunday	12 noon - 4 pm
Holiday Monday	10 am - 4 pm

FEP (FRONTENAC ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP)

This has been my first experience with this organization and, as usual, I jumped in with both feet, and volunteered to be on the Board of Directors. As you may recall from previous newsletters, the mandate of this organization is to protect and enhance our natural environment by combining all of our voices and resources in the Frontenacs to present a united front.

The annual meeting was attended by representatives from the following lakes: Elbow, Kashwakamak, Big Gull East, Silver, Bobs, Crow, Kennebec, Big Clear, Green Lake and Bedford Mining Alert. Glenn Jackson, the president, reviewed the activities over the past year: 9 workshops in the summer of 2004, a Lake Talk CD, Environmental Fair in the summer of 2004, a CEP initiative, Communications, Trillium submission, Logo, OPP pamphlet, South Frontenac workshop for contractors, and work on a FEP webpage. The organization has been busy! There was a round table discussion where each lake representative talked about issues and priorities for their lake associations.

The issues for most lakes seem to be septic re-inspection, more involvement, and maintaining the healthiness of the lakes. FEP has decided to focus on the septic system aspect for this year. They will educate and become a resource for people in the Frontenacs with respect to septic systems. They will research new technologies, attempt to get a handle on what other areas are doing or have done, and monitor the re-inspection process. The OPP pamphlet previously mentioned will be mailed with your spring newsletter. I have a copy of the Lake Talk CD which you can borrow at any time or I can make a copy of it for you. This group is always looking for volunteers so if you have an interest and the time, please help out.

I attended an information function on Saturday, September 24, 2005 that was organized by the Kennebec Lake Association in conjunction with the Quinte Conservation Authority on "Wells and Septic Systems." There were various speakers from the Conservation Authority who spoke about wells, surface water, ground water and septic systems. They spoke about the water cycle, the testing for healthy surface water, various types of wells and how to troubleshoot your wells and septic systems. These are the types of information sessions that make us more informed and aware of what we are doing to and hopefully for our environment. Only by being educated can we keep our lakes healthy! ~~~

Lynn Meijer

DINNER / SILENT AUCTION

Our annual Dinner/Auction was held on September 17th and was well attended with 89 cottagers sitting down to a delicious turkey dinner served by Beth and her staff at Aragain Lodge.

Many thanks to all who donated to the Silent Auction; the "silent" bidding was hardly silent but great fun. There were door prizes as well as a draw for a basket of environmentally friendly cleaning products from "Nature Clean." The proceeds enabled our association to donate \$349 to *North Frontenac Community Services* and *Child and Youth Transportation Services* as well as \$349 and donated canned goods to *Land O'Lakes Emergency Response Food Bank*.

Our thanks go to Al MacGregor for serving as the Master of Ceremonies for our event and also to those who sold tickets and donated food items and door prizes.

Any suggestions for next year's dinner are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. ~~~

Carm Smith and Jean-Anne Houle

INVASIVE SPECIES

I first found zebra mussel veligers (larvae) in Kashwakamak in 1997, confirmed in 1998 and 2001. During this time there were no adult mussels reported. It was concluded that the veligers might be coming in on "dirty boats," but that they were not able to survive and form colonies in the waters of Kashwakamak.

In 2003, in the second phase of Watershed Watch, only ONE zebra mussel veliger was detected in samples from three locations on the lake. However, Spiny Water Flea was detected. These are about 1-1.5cm. in length and have long tail spines with barb-like projections. They feed on small animal life, zooplankton, which are also the preferred food of small fish. They have the potential to lie dormant through adverse conditions and emerge again when conditions become favourable. They generally rely on winds and currents to carry them any great distance.

Now for the GOOD NEWS! There were no zebra mussel veligers OR Spiny water fleas detected in samples taken from the lake this summer. This does not mean that there are none present, but certainly that they are not widely distributed. We still need to maintain our vigilance in washing boats *etc.* ~~~

Elma MacLachlan

LAKE STEWARDSHIP

Hasn't this been a great summer? We seem to be swinging from one extreme to the other. Last summer was one of the coldest and wettest on record, while this summer was one of the hottest and driest.

Heavy rain in June caused some minor fluctuations in the lake level, but from then onwards the level has been steadily dropping due to evaporation. There was a fire ban on for most of the summer because the bush was so dry. The trees, especially the birches, look to be quite stressed. However, a wet fall, which would raise the water table, might help them to cope through the winter.

Rainfall in Millimetres

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
May	89.5	58.0	75.5	75.5	74.5	30.0
June	139.0	50.5	198.0	66.5	81.5	121.5
July	139.0	45.0	42.0	57.5	66.0	16.0
August	88.0	73.5	35.5	95.5	105.5	90.0
September	66.0	70.5	53.0	108.0	103.0	31.5(21 st)

Elma MacLachlan

MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

This ongoing study to review the operational management of dams and hydro-power facilities in the Mississippi River system has now formulated a Draft Plan. This was available for public review on August 19, 2005. The final Plan may be complete by the end of the year.

During the process, the option of having only one drawdown of Kashwakamak in the fall and leaving it at the Nov./Dec. level was considered. This would have left less volume to store spring run-off and would have caused extensive ice damage to docks on the lake. MNR had no documented results of possible amphibian loss when the second drawdown occurred. Therefore the "one drawdown" option was discarded and the Kashwakamak Dam will continue to be operated as it has been in the past. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSPECTION

This is a more correct term than Septic System Inspection because it encompasses all types of wastewater disposal such as outhouses and dry wells.

Although the program was delayed because of North Frontenac's late budget approval, letters were sent out at the end of August to property owners with old or undocumented septic systems. We hope all members who received the letter have been able to complete and return the questionnaire. This would allow the inspection to take place even in your absence. It is planned to inspect thirty systems this fall and reports will be sent of the findings.

If everything goes according to plan, the program will be expanded next summer on Kashwakamak and inspections would be initiated on Big Gull Lake. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting, held on July 9th, was again very well attended with over 70 members present. The new starting time of 9:30 am appeared to meet with everyone's approval.

In her report, the President voiced the general concern over the increases in municipal taxes, which are the result of increases in waterfront property assessment. KLA is a member of WRAFT (see separate report) – a province wide organization trying to achieve fair taxation. Elma urged all members to send letters to their MPPs to try to raise government awareness of the seriousness of the problem in traditional cottage country.

The president thanked two retiring directors, Jean-Anne Houle, who had served more than 5 years but who is continuing her involvement as Co-Chair of the Dinner/Auction, and Mary Larson, who did not feel that she would now be spending enough time at the lake to continue her commitment to the Association. Mary's contribution as a dedicated Newsletter Editor and Vice-President, and her expertise and knowledge will be greatly missed on the Board.

The election of new directors was conducted by Reg Locke. Susan Davies (Silver Mine), Lynn Meijer (South Shore) and Bob Osborne (Brown's Bay) were acclaimed and welcomed to the Board.

The meeting concluded with Margaret Axford of the Cloyne and District Historical Society, who talked about the early days on Kashwakamak and how cottagers can preserve history to pass on to future generations. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

WEISS POINT NEWS (EAST END OF KASHWAKAMAK)

Our road association entered into a liability insurance contract that will give our association officers year round protection from lawsuits and the like while maintaining our roads. This was fairly costly, but hopefully justified.

As we write this article, there have been seven reported break-ins on our point with numerous items stolen, including a boat and motor, tackle boxes, fishing rods and reels, chainsaws, liquor and beer, gas and money. Everyone should be vigilant and question anyone that you see and don't know. Stop them and ask "Who are you and what are you doing?"

Another item of concern for our residents is the very slow progress that Bell is making in getting our telephone service installed and running. They still have, at this writing, a 100 pair cable to run from the water at Fernleigh Lodge to #506 and Kashwakamak Road, plus all the splicing involved in the system and the final connections to the homes. Their customer relations people are non-responsive to my pleas to at least respond to my phone calls.

Finally I wish to congratulate two of our residents, Scott Emmel and Lois Allan, on their recent wedding on the lake at their residence on Kashwakamak on Weiss Point. It was a gala affair attended by many friends and relatives and a good many neighbours. There was lots of delicious food and much merriment. Congrats to Fernleigh Lodge for the fine dinner that they provided. The reception was at the residence as well as the wedding ceremony. Many thanks to Mother Nature for her generosity in holding off on the rain.

Well that about wraps up the year from this end, hope everyone has a good winter, wherever you are. ❧

Alan and Donna West

Ideas please! We enjoyed the interesting talk by Marg Axford of the Cloyne and District Historical Society at the Annual General Meeting in July. We would appreciate your input as to a speaker for next year's meeting. Is there something that you feel would be of interest to all in attendance at the meeting? Let us know. You can email your suggestions to me at lmeijer@sympatico.ca.

Lynn Meijer

SOUTH SHORE REPORT

We held our annual meeting on the Labour Day weekend. Fred Perry, the councillor for Ward 1, very kindly attended the meeting. Our association, as all others, is concerned with rising property taxes. Fred re-iterated that the taxes had increased by less than 1% this year and that the market value assessments were frozen. North Frontenac is responsible for 600 kilometres of road from the municipal budget. There are no county roads in North Frontenac so there are no grants or other monies coming to help maintain the roads. The gas rebates available to the municipalities are based on permanent residences and since 80% of the taxes come from seasonal (waterfront property owners) residents, the gas rebate to the municipality was minimal.

Fred was also asked about the septic system inspection progress; he stated that letters to 50 homes with old septic systems were to be mailed the following week and he hoped that 30 of these would be inspected by the end of November and that next year another 100 would be inspected. They would be starting with Kashwakamak Lake, then Big Gull and then Mazinaw. The systems must be up to today's standards and comply with current regulations.

He advised us that the Cloyne dump would be closing in September 2006 and that the Plevna dump is closing soon which means that the only dumps in North Frontenac will be the 506 and Lake Kashwakamak. There are plans in progress to build an incinerator in the next 3 or 4 years. We appreciate him taking the time to attend our meeting. We continue to be enthusiastic members of the Lake Kashwakamak Cottage Association. ❧

Lynn Meijer

Remember... for emergencies

Call 911

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This newsletter is published twice a year in the spring and the fall. If there is anything that you would like to see in here, please give me your ideas and I'll see if I can incorporate them. I can be contacted by email at KashKourier@sympatico.ca.

Carol Shepherdson