



News and Information from Kashwakamak Lake Association

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Welcome back to another summer on the lake; we are so fortunate to be able to live and play in such a lovely area.

This past winter we decided to keep you all informed on the property tax situation in Ontario, so that you could take action by writing to your MPP on the unfairness of the system. KLA also wrote on your behalf – a copy of the reply from MPP Leona Dombrowsky is enclosed. For the current situation, see Property Tax Reform Update.

Our AGM will be held on **Saturday, July 7, 9:30am** in the Lions Hall in Northbrook. This is our Election Year and we really need new people to step forward. The speaker at the meeting will be Steve Riddell, North Frontenac Fire Chief at Plevna. See all the details under Annual General Meeting. The Agenda is included in this package.

For the first time we welcome contributions to the Newsletter from Guy Nason, the new Lake Steward. I’m sure you will find him interesting and enthusiastic, with lots of new ideas.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM, which will be my last as President.

Have a great summer!

Elma MacLachlan

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Elma MacLachlan	613-336-8875
Bill Roffey	613-336-8357
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Al West	613-479-0121
Karen McCall	613-336-8053
Susan Davies	613-336-6895
Robert Osborne	613-479-2635
Lynn Young (Meijer)	613-336-8080

KLA BOARD

This year is our Election Year and we have a real need for new Board Members. Several of our current Executive are stepping down, after having given of their time and energy for many years. However we need new people with fresh ideas if we are to continue as a strong lake association with a lot of influence in the community.

We have been fortunate in having good people step forward in the past – I'm sure you will not let us down now. The normal term of office is two years with approximately five meetings a year. Someone with financial skills who would be prepared to take over as Treasurer/Membership Secretary would be especially valuable at this time.

Please call any of the Board members if you are willing to have your name stand at the AGM. ❧

Elma MacLachlan

GOODBYES

This year we say goodbye to two long-time Board members – Reg Locke and Ian Brash. Our sincere thanks to both these gentlemen.

Reg Locke, Past President

Reg Locke has been involved with KLA since its inception. He was Membership Secretary/Treasurer for many years, President for 4 years and then Past President. I think he would be most proud of all the work he did in mapping for the Civic Addressing in preparation for 911 Emergency Response. He is familiar with every road and property around the lake. We will certainly miss his experience and knowledge. Enjoy your retirement, Reg.

Ian Brash, Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Ian has held this position on the KLA Board for 8 years. His attention to detail and meticulous book keeping were very much appreciated. Almost single-handedly he pushed to increase our membership through the entire lake and was instrumental in bringing into KLA other road associations. For many years Ian (and his wife Elaine) took on the task of mailing out the Newsletters – quite a job as the membership rose to over 360. You deserve your retirement, Ian.. ❧

Elma MacLachlan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kashwakamak Lake Association will be held on **Saturday, July 7 at 9:30am** in the Lions Hall in Northbrook.

The main item of KLA business will be the election of Directors to serve on the Board for the next two years (see “KLA Board”).

The speaker for the second half of the meeting will be North Frontenac Fire Chief, Steve Riddell from Plevna. The Chief will talk about fire safety and precautions we can all take to reduce fire risk. He will also discuss the Emergency Response Plan which is in place in the Township. This is the plan to respond to disasters such as fire, ice storms, wind storms *etc.*, which appear to be occurring more and more frequently.

The Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed. We look forward to having good attendance at this meeting.

❧

Elma MacLachlan

WASTE WATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSPECTION

In the second year (2006) of this septic program, 102 sites were inspected; 73 were on Kashwakamak and the others were on Mazinaw (7), Big Gull (17) and Marble (5). In the interests of efficiency, it was attempted to group inspections by road. In this way more interest in the program was created and people did not feel they had been singled out.

Unfortunately, the initial letters advising owners that their sites had been selected for inspection were not mailed.

This presented somewhat of a challenge when doing the inspections. Opening up the tank is considered highly invasive and only done with the owner's permission. Since no questionnaires were sent out, there was no opportunity for owners to give their permission. Therefore in the majority of the sites only visual inspections could be done. The tank was only opened if the owner was present and gave permission.

A visual inspection can identify problem situations, such as being too close to a well or the lake, surface discharge, wet areas and trees or roots on the septic bed. While this is valuable information, visual-only inspections made it impossible to collect accurate data on the condition of the tanks, baffles *etc.*

The results of the sites inspected on Kashwakamak:

No Visual Concerns	22
Too close to water	10
Tank in poor condition	4
Excessive plant growth	4
Surface Discharge	6
Others	16
More information needed	10

Properties which were considered a significant threat to the environment or health were forwarded to the Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Health Unit for enforcement.

All owners involved in the 2006 Program were sent a package that included:

- An apology from North Frontenac regarding lack of notification
- An individual report for each property detailing any questions or concerns (or lack thereof).

I would like to thank all our members who were part of the 2006 Program for your support and co-operation in difficult circumstances. This program will continue in 2007 on Kashwakamak and the neighbouring lakes.

NOTICE of Waste Water Workshops

Tentative Dates:

July 13, 2007	7:00pm	Barrie Township Hall
Aug.17, 2007	7:00pm	Plevna

The Mississippi Valley Conservation and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Partnership is offering these workshops to homeowners and cottagers.

Jamie Saunders, who is in charge of doing the wastewater disposal inspections for North Frontenac Township, will be explaining the program. He will also answer your questions about the program and water and wastewater issues. This would be an excellent meeting to attend if you wish to find out more about wastewater disposal systems and their effect on the lake.

Confirmation of the dates will be in the Frontenac News two weeks beforehand. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

PROPERTY TAX REFORM UPDATE

Thank you to all who responded to our call for action in January. It did achieve some action by the government – unfortunately not enough!

The 4-year assessment cycle as described by MPP Leona Dombrowsky in her reply (enclosed) to a letter from KLA does not deal with the volatility of the assessments or the unfairness of the process. There is nothing in the Budget that will prevent a return to dramatic double-digit increases in property assessments. When they resume in 2008, you will just have four years to deal with the heavy tax impact. Then the next assessment notice will arrive.

The Coalition after Property Tax Reform or CAPTR (of which we, through WRAFT {Waterfront Rate-payers after Fair Taxation} are members) represents more than one million Ontario property owners. CAPTR believes that assessment hikes must be limited to no more than 5% annually. Otherwise, the combination of hot real estate markets in some areas and a crude assessment methodology will continue to lead to massive volatility in valuation and property taxes. The figure of 5% annual cap was chosen because it is the long term average increase in residential property values. It is a fair and realistic cap which will allow assessments to rise in line with past trends. An assessment cap is revenue neutral to both the municipalities and the province. It does not cap taxes – only the volatility of their distribution amongst property owners.

The provincial election is just over 3 months away (October 10). The promise the McGuinty government made in 2004 to fix the assessment and property tax has not been fulfilled.

The PC Party have announced a 5% cap on annual assessment increases as part of their election platform. The New Democrats have also recognized the need to end the unfairness of the present system. (See p.26 of the June 2007 issue of *Cottage Life* magazine which grades the policies of the political parties).

What Can You Do?

- Write or email your MPP
- Send a copy to Finance Minister Greg Sorbara (See the enclosed poster for more information)
- Write the Ombudsman, using the complaint form at ombudsman.ca

- Check www.captr.org and www.wraft.ca for continuing current information.

Everyone needs to act now if we are to be successful in getting this issue addressed. ☺

Elma MacLachlan

ADOPT-A-ROAD

The annual Lake Kashwakamak Road cleanup was to take place on Saturday, June 9 at 1pm (rain date: Sunday, June 10). We were again hoping to attack the debris from Harlowe all the way to the other end of the Kashwakamak Road.

Many thanks to all who participated this year but please keep in mind that we need lots of volunteers - the more we have, the less time it takes to finish the job and it's a great way to meet and socialize with some of your fellow cottagers!

Ken and Joan Lindey, as always, generously volunteered to host a BBQ after the work was done. Chris Winney of Royal LePage once again provided the food for this event. We are also grateful to the Township of North Frontenac as our councillor, Wayne Good, makes sure we get equipment for the clean up in the form of garbage bags and safety vests. He makes sure signs are put up and arranges for the Kashwakamak dump to be open for us to dispose of the fruit of our labours.

Please call me at 613-336-2003 to add your name to my list of volunteers for next year's clean up. It is important to keep our roads clean of garbage! ☺

Roger Guilbert

BEDFORD MINING ALERT (BMA)

The Bedford Mining Alert is an Ontario-based lobby group focusing on the manner in which the current laws allow prospecting, exploration and mining activities, often with significant adverse impact on individual property owners and on the environment which supports local tourism, and recreational and cottage activities. You can find out more at www.bedfordminingalert.ca.

They asked various associations, including the KLA, to sign a letter supporting their cause. The directors discussed their request and agreed that we should sign the letter of support. ☺

DINNER/SILENT AUCTION

Our Annual Dinner / Auction will be held on **Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 7pm**, preceded by "Happy Hour" at 6pm. We will be enjoying a turkey dinner with all the trimmings at Fernleigh Lodge (at the east end of our lake).

The silent auction will proceed as usual and food bank donations will be accepted at the door.

Tickets are \$21.00 per person including taxes and gratuities (BYOB). They will be available from Reg and Mary Locke: 613-336-8393.

This is a great opportunity to meet new neighbours and re-acquaint with old friends. ☺

Co-chairs: Carmen Smith and Jean Anne Houle

BOAT PARADE

We are having our annual boat parade on **Saturday, June 30th at 1pm**. Decorate your boat and come on over to my place and we will go from there. Call me at 613-336-8393 for more information. ☺

Reg Locke

LAKE STEWARDSHIP

Water Quality Results 2006

Clarity readings are taken at least eight times throughout the summer. In May, lake water samples are taken, which are sent to the MOE for phosphorus analysis. The results from 2006 were excellent – time will tell whether this was just one good year or a positive trend.

Year	Clarity(m)	Avg. Phosphorus(ug/l)
2006	5.9	4.3
2005	5.3	5.3
2004	5.8	6.9
2003	5.8	6.5
2002	4.9	8.7
2001	6.3	
1996	4.2	

Invasive Species

Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Flea were not detected in the samples from Kashwakamak.

This is my last report – Guy Nason will be testing and reporting in the future. Keep up your good stewardship practices! ☺

Elma MacLachlan

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT

At last year's Annual Meeting, I agreed to replace Elma MacLachlan as Kashwakamak Lake Steward. Elma has conducted the duties of Lake Steward in an exemplary manner for more than ten years and certainly deserves a break. Thank you, Elma. I hope I can live up to your high standard.

First, an introduction. My name is Guy Nason and I'm a relative newcomer to the lake. My wife and I bought an undeveloped lot on the north side of Michell Bay ten years ago. The cottage went up about five years later. Our permanent residence is in Toronto, but we spend as much time at the lake as possible.

When we went shopping for cottage property back in the 1990's, we were attracted to northern Frontenac County by its lakes and skies. As enthusiastic paddlers, we wanted a place where we could put our canoe (and later, kayaks) in the water and paddle happily to – well, almost anywhere the urge took us. As an active amateur astronomer, I was taken by the incredibly clear, dark skies above The Land O' Lakes. When we found a few acres of undeveloped land on Kashwakamak Lake with lots of shoreline and a nice little hill on which to build an observatory, we knew we were here to stay.

For the last decade I've told anyone who would listen how great our lake and its environs are. Now, putting a bit of time and effort where my mouth is, I agreed to become Kashwakamak Lake Steward.

As part of the Lake Partnership Program, I'll be working with the Ministry of the Environment by taking annual water samples to monitor total phosphorus content, and to frequently measure the transparency and temperature of the lake. I'll also connect with the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and FOCA to assist with, and keep you informed of, their initiatives. Two such areas of interest are the prevention of aquatic invasive species and shoreline stewardship. I'll address the former here and the latter in a separate article elsewhere in this issue.

Invasive Species Prevention:

Invasive aquatic species are non-native organisms that have entered local watersheds, usually as a re-

sult of human activity, and often compete aggressively for nutrients to the detriment of native species. They include plants like fanwort and purple loosestrife, and animals such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. Although Kashwakamak Lake did show evidence of zebra mussels in the past, recent sampling has detected none. Last year MVCA surveyed the lake looking for zebra mussels and spiny water fleas and detected neither.

Zebra mussels (molluscs) and spiny water fleas (small crustaceans) have been detected in the Great Lakes and some inland Ontario lakes since the 1980's. Both compete for food directly with small native fish. A decrease in small fish populations could also take away a food source for larger sport fish. In addition, zebra mussels emit phosphorus, a nutrient that contributes to lake-killing algae blooms. Once established, zebra mussels proliferate rapidly and can cover nearly anything in the water, including boats, anchors, water intake pipes and even other species. Fortunately, Kashwakamak Lake seems to be free from such ecosystem-altering interlopers. Let's all try very hard to keep it that way.

The single best method of preventing aquatic species invasion is to practice good boat hygiene. Boaters who use their craft in more than one body of water are the prime agents for aquatic species migration by offering free rides to these pests. Immediately upon taking your craft out of the water, spray down the boat and trailer, and drain all standing water in the boat, including bilges and livewells. Spray off all your fishing gear, anchors, downriggers and anything else that has been immersed in the lake. Don't wait until you're about to re-launch into a different lake. Doing so would simply wash hitch-hiking organisms into the new lake - exacerbating, rather than preventing, the problem. Use high pressure or hot water when hosing down the boat and trailer or keep them high and dry for at least five sunny days before re-launching.

For more on preventing the spread of invasive species visit:

www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/invasive.html



Guy Nason

GOOD SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP

One of the most effective ways to promote a healthy lake is to practice good shoreline stewardship. A natural shoreline resists erosion, reduces pollutants, and provides spawning grounds and protective habitat for fish and other wildlife. It's also a place for aquatic plants, "the lungs of the lake", to do their job of releasing oxygen into the water and converting sunlight into food.

If you are considering making changes to your shoreline, be sure to take a low-impact approach. Consider floating or cantilever docks, for instance, instead of a fixed dock. Or limit alterations to less than 25 percent of your shoreline.

If your shore is "unnatural" with, for instance, a concrete retaining wall or a lawn that extends to the waterline, you might consider restoring at least part of it to its natural state. That need not be expensive or time-consuming - quite the opposite, in fact. You will save money by not applying pesticides or fertilizer to your lawn and by not mowing the last few metres of lawn you will get more hammock time while allowing native plants to re-colonize the shoreline. Logs and other natural detritus that fall near or in the lake should be left where they lie. Here's one case where it's good to be lazy! If removing some or all of a concrete retaining wall is not feasible, then reworking the shoreline immediately above and below the wall will help.

These measures will help to improve the health of the lake. Besides, it's the law!

Canada's *Fisheries Act* assigns the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) the responsibility to administer and enforce the conservation and protection of fish habitat and applies to the whole of Canada, including private property in every province and territory.

Anyone considering any change to the shoreline would be wise to approach the DFO first. According to the DFO's website, "you are within your legal rights to go ahead with your project without having it reviewed. But if you do, and if you harm fish habitat you are liable to prosecution under the *Fisheries Act*." And that can be very expensive!

It's best to check with DFO before you start by going to the DFO website at:

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/water-eau/index_e.asp

and read the "*What Do I Need to Do?*" section. Or contact the regional DFO office:

101-501 Towerhill Rd.

Peterborough, ON, K9H 7S3

Phone: 705-750-4016

Email: referralpeterborough@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Other environmental stakeholders should be contacted as well, particularly the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (www.mnr.gov.on.ca) and the North Frontenac township office (www.northfrontenac.ca or phone 613-479-2231).

In cooperation with *Cottage Life* magazine, the DFO has produced a series of pamphlets, including "The Dock Primer" (guide to environment-friendly docks, covering the essentials from dock designs to the approval process) and "The Shore Primer" (guide to healthy waterfronts). They are available in PDF format at:

www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci_id/2681/la_id/1.htm

One more thing: A major way that all of us – not just waterfront owners – can help prevent shoreline erosion is to obey the boating laws, especially the near-shore speed limit: 10 kph (~6 mph) within 30 metres (100 feet) of shore. This applies everywhere, not just where it's posted.

Together we can keep our lake healthy! ~~~

Guy Nason

LOON WATCH

We have two new volunteers this summer, Bob Osborne and Bill Roffey. They are replacing Anne Twombly and Helen Law, who have retired from this task. Thanks, ladies, for all of your loon watching. Bill and Bob will give us a better representation in the central and eastern stretches of the lake. Thanks to all our volunteers. ~~~

TURTLES

Please watch out for turtles crossing the road! Females are looking for a place to nest at this time of year and may find it necessary to cross the road. Try not to run them over; they are becoming a species that we need to worry about. ~~~

REMINDERS

- No burning of brush between 7:00am and 7:00pm from April 1 To October 31
- Be aware of when “Fire Bans” are in effect. Be especially careful of lit cigarettes!
- Building permits are required for additions, auxiliary buildings *etc.* Check with Dave Young, the North Frontenac Building Inspector, if you are in doubt as to whether you need a permit.
- Permission is required for any work that alters the shoreline, such as removing driftwood, docks, retaining walls, boathouses *etc.* Apply to MNR at their Bancroft office.
- **Do** use phosphate-free cleaning products – **Read The Labels!**
- **Do Not** fertilize grass near the lake.
- Everyone will require a Boat Operator’s license by September 2009

ADVERTISING

The advertisement sheet included with this Newsletter is intended only as a service to our members. These business cards are either from KLA members or paid ads from local businesses. (KLA does not endorse any product or service advertised).

The Interior Zone in Northbrook will continue to donate a percentage of sales to KLA members to our lake association. Make sure you advise them at the time of purchase that you are a member of KLA. The donation given for last year’s sales to members is noted in the Treasurer’s Report (enclosed with this newsletter). ❧

FOCA website: www.foca.on.ca
(Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations)

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

NORTH FRONTENAC MUNICIPAL ELECTION

I hope many of you exercised your right to vote in the Nov 2006 election – this will be our Council until 2010.

The incumbent Mayor, Ron Maguire, was returned, defeating Councillors Bud Clayton and Betty Hunter. Returning Councillors, Fred Perry and Wayne Good were acclaimed in Ward 1. In the wide-open race in Ward 2, Lonnie Watkins and Wayne Cole were successful. In Ward 3, the incumbent, David Smith was defeated. Jim Beam (Deputy Mayor) and Bob Olmstead were elected.

These men (no female representation) hold the future of North Frontenac Township in their hands. Time will tell if we have chosen wisely! ❧

Elma MacLachlan

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly there has been another death in the Kashwakamak community. Bob Hosking, a distinguished and long time resident of Lake Kashwakamak passed away on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at Kingston General Hospital. His funeral was held on Monday, May 28, 2007 at the Bush Funeral Home in Belleville. There were at least 300 people in attendance at the service presided over by Rev. Judith Evenden of the United Church of Flinton / Harlowe / Cloyne.

Bob was a very giving and generous person and always there for anyone who needed a helping hand. He was a member of the Shriners, the Masons, and a prominent leader of Alcoholics Anonymous; in fact, he was instrumental in setting up an AA program in this area. Our sympathies are with his wife Irene, who is an active member of the United Church, and volunteers many hours of her time at the Clothing Depot in Northbrook. Bob will be missed by all who knew him. ❧

WASTE DISPOSAL SITE HOURS

Summer hours commencing May 15 th each year	Winter hours commencing October 15 th each year (NOTE: Dumps are closed on Christmas and New Years Days)
WARD ONE	WARD ONE
Cloyne Site	Cloyne Site
Sunday 10 am -- 8 pm	Sunday 9 am -- 4 pm
Monday 10 am -- 5 pm	Wednesday 1 pm -- 4 pm
Holiday Monday 10 am -- 6 pm	Friday 9 am -- 12 noon
Wed & Fri 9 am -- 1 pm	
Saturday 12 noon -- 5 pm	
506 Site	506 Site
Sunday 2 pm -- 7 pm	Monday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Saturday 1 pm -- 6 pm	Holiday Monday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Thurs., & Friday 2 pm -- 6 pm	Thursday 9 am -- 1 pm
	Friday 1 pm -- 4 pm
	Saturday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Kashwakamak Site	Kashwakamak Site
Holiday Monday 2 pm -- 7 pm	Sunday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Thursday 1 pm -- 6 pm	Holiday Monday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Sunday 2 pm -- 7 pm	
WARD TWO	WARD TWO
Plevna Site	Plevna Site
Sunday & Friday 10 am -- 6 pm	Sun., Wed., & Friday 10 am -- 4 pm
Wednesday 8.30 am -- 4.30 pm	
Ardoch Site	Ardoch Site
Thursday 1 pm -- 6 pm	Thurs., & Sat. 10 am -- 3 pm
Saturday 10 am -- 6 pm	
Monday 1 pm -- 6 pm	
WARD THREE	WARD THREE
Please note that during holiday weekends, the Ward 3 sites are closed on Sundays and open on Monday	
Mississippi Site	Mississippi Site
Tuesday & Saturday 10 am -- 2 pm	Tuesday & Saturday 10 am -- 2 pm
Thursday & Sunday 4 pm -- 8 pm	
Ompah Site	Ompah Site
Tuesday 10 am -- 2 pm	Tuesday 10 am -- 2 pm
Saturday 12 noon -- 4 pm	Saturday 12 noon -- 4 pm
Sunday 4 pm -- 8 pm	