



**CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2008
www.christielakeassociation.com**

Greetings from the President, *Gordon Hill*:

As the days grow shorter, the long summer days and warm summer nights fade into memory. The sunsets caressing the North Shore, the call of the loon, fishing at dawn, moonlight dancing on the water. We'll put them into cold storage and bring them out again in the spring. Even the glorious days of early autumn are behind us with the yellow, gold, orange and red glistening in the sun, brilliant against the bright blue sky. The harvest moon was almost too big to be real. The cottage season goes so fast. And the skies of November turn gloomy. The May long weekend seems so far away.

And yes, we remember the record setting rainfall and cooler than average temperatures. But the weather didn't prevent us from sharing good times with family and friends, although it may have affected the boat traffic. Didn't the Lake seem to be much quieter this summer?

Your Association has achieved some successes since we reported to you in our Spring Newsletter. Association membership is up, the Lake Directory was completed and distributed at the AGM in July, the spawning bed at Deacons ' rapids was improved, our website continues to expand, the Social Committee kept us entertained, marker buoys were set out in the Spring and taken in the Fall, water testing continues. Much time and effort was devoted to the development of our Lake Management Plan ("LMP") and many of you provided valuable feedback, the most consistent message being that, if we are to have a LMP, it should be an educational tool for Lake residents, rather than a blue print for more regulation by the Township or the Conservation Authority .

But there is more to be done, some new projects to be undertaken, some existing ones to be improved or expanded. If you have a particular interest in one or more of our committee activities or would like promote a new one, we encourage you to let us know and to get involved. We can certainly use your time and talents.

I wish each of you a happy holiday season, a mild winter, an early spring and most importantly good health throughout the year ahead.

Lake Management Planning Committee (LMPC) Update *by Austin Sweezey*:

The Christie Lake Management Planning Committee (LMPC) was created in 2007 to guide our lake community through the lake planning process and to encourage community input and participation in the development of the State of the Lake (SoL) Report and the Christie Lake Stewardship Plan. The Committee has been busy in 2008. Review of all residents' responses to the Lake survey of July 2007 identified core issues including: water quality, aquatic vegetation, groundwater, water levels, development pressures, fisheries, wildlife and boating impacts. Considering these core issues we started the year developing the 1st and 2nd drafts of our State of the Lake (SoL) report. The SoL Report provides a summary of what is currently known about the Christie Lake Watershed and how that information relates to the issues that are important to the lake community.

We also sponsored two Partners meetings and continue to maintain active dialogues in order to take advantage of their expertise and gain input. Throughout the year we endeavored to communicate our intentions to the community through the Christie Lake Association (CLA) web site, news media articles, signs on lake access roads and other central locations, e-mail and of course word-of-mouth.

The 2nd Draft SoL was produced and distributed in May 2008 with the issue of hard copies and CD discs at several community locations and posted on web sites (CLA, Tay Valley Township and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority). Following this release we conducted three community meetings (July 12th, August 23rd

and September 20th) in order to increase community awareness about the lake planning process on Christie Lake. The meetings were also to gather the lake community's suggestions and recommendations on the types of activities the Christie Lake community should carry out to address the issues identified in the SoL Report.

Recommendations and feedback received from the community focused primarily on education and stewardship activities. Early in 2009, a second survey will be sent to you to determine what education and stewardship activities you will support to protect the long term health of our lake. This feedback will help guide the development of our Lake Stewardship Plan (LSP).

With your input, we now have a firm understanding of the lake community's core issues and are moving forward to finalizing the SoL in February 2009. The LMPC will continue to maintain active dialogue and participation with the Christie Lake community and its Partners as we move through the lake planning process. Your ideas, suggestions, feedback and involvement will provide us with direction for the next steps in the process and are crucial to the success of our lake plan.

Other lake stewardship activities: Throughout late spring to early fall we continued with our water testing programs in the Christie Lake Watershed (Watershed Watch, phosphorus monitoring of all tributaries, macroinvertebrate sampling), conducted a shoreline classification survey update, organized a Well-Aware workshop and attended Lake Networking meetings. All of this activity was aimed at advancing our collective understanding of the health of our lake and the issues which may be negatively affecting our Watershed. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) applied the Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Model on Christie Lake this summer. The purpose of this modeling exercise was to estimate how much development (number of new lots, cottage conversions) could be added around Christie Lake before the lake's water quality is degraded beyond recovery (the maximum phosphorus loading / concentration the lake can tolerate). The final report with assessment results will be sent to the CLA once completed.

NOTE: We want your involvement and feedback! Comments concerning the development of the SoL and LSP may be directed to any one of the following LMPC members:

Austin Sweezey - Chair: tel 613-829-1323, e-mail asweezey@magma.ca

Liz Bell: tel 613-267-2200, e-mail lizbell@xplornet.com

Larry Bowen: tel 613-273-4861, e-mail bowens!@rideau.net

Orion Clark: tel 613- 267-4939, e-mail oclark@superaje.com

Ralph Fish: tel 613- 267-3268, e-mail rfish@superaje.com

Brian Saunders: tel 613-273-3198, e-mail SaundersJamesBrian@yahoo.ca

Social News by Donna Walsh:

Our **Welcome Back to the Lake Wine and Cheese** held on Friday June 13th was deemed a success! We look forward to repeating the event next spring. Special thanks to the Boys and Girls camp for letting us host our event at their venue.

Our **Hallow'en in July** day was almost rained out BUT a few hardy ghouls, ghosts and other creatures were able to get in some trick-or-treating. We hope the weather is more co-operative for next year's event!

This year's popular **Annual Kids Fishing Derby** was postponed until Sunday August 3rd due to thunderstorms. More than 30 children participated and all received prizes for all their hard work! The new focus of "catch and release" was a success! The derby was followed by a well received corn roast for all the hungry participants and friends of Christie Lake. We look forward to repeating this event next long August week-end!

Special thanks are extended to Allan Jordan, Liz Bell, Apryle Patterson, Norma Goldstein, Marilyn and Stan Seymour, Gerry and Norma Gorham and Jim and Chris Ayotte for all their "behind the scenes" assistance!

Membership and Directory News by Apryle Patterson:

Great news, our membership total is up 25% from last year and we have a winner! Congratulations to Barbara and James Shepherd. You have won our membership draw - a \$50.00 gift certificate to the Fall River Pub and Grill. Thanks to Jane O'Grady, Dale Ritchie, Gerry Gorham, Denise Wilson, Donna Walsh, Ed Borza, Stanley Seymour, Bob Vergette, Bill Gallagher and Debbie Armitage who helped deliver our membership packages. It is a great way to inform the residents what the board is doing on their behalf and address any concerns that they may have. Thanks to everyone who supported the CLA by purchasing a membership, your support is greatly appreciated.

The Christie Lake Directory has been updated and distributed. Those members who did not receive their copy please contact me at aprylep@sympatico.ca. I will make sure that your membership committee representative gets it to you in the spring. We encourage all members to review the directory and contact me with any changes.

Safe Boating Course by *Apryle Patterson*:

Our safe boating course was a success. It was held in August at the Tay River Tent and Trailer Park. The deadline for your boating license is September 2009 and the CLA plans on holding more sessions next summer depending on interest and hall availability. Stay tuned for the spring newsletter for more information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brigitte and Hans Gretener for their continued support by allowing us to hold the course in their Rec Hall.

Mining Act Revision Committee Report by *David Hill*:

Mrs. Wendy Hassard and her husband, residents of Otty Lake who are leading a group effort to change provisions of the Ontario Mining Act, spoke to our directors in August. They want changes to the Act to require fair treatment of surface rights owners who do not own the mining rights on their land. They have a group of 200 members working on the change.

Many properties owners in southern Ontario do not own their mining rights. There is a patchwork of land ownership of mining and surface rights, mining rights only and surface rights only. From maps available at the Tay Valley Township offices, it would appear that most of the waterfront lying west of Big Island is owned by persons who hold surface rights only. Surface rights only lands can be staked for mining claims and assessment and development work done on them.

Surface rights owners have to accept trespass by mining claim holders without notice. There is provision under the Act for compensation but the procedures required are onerous, expensive and time consuming and there appears to be an administrative bias in favor of the miner. Wendy said that at the assessment stage the claim holder is not required to rehabilitate any damage done to the property.

The Ministry is holding hearings to review the Mining Act and regulations. At Wendy's request CLA has become a member of her group and our president has written to the Ministry to support proposed changes which would protect the property rights of surface rights owners.

Sailing Races report by *Gordon Hill*:

Sadly, the sailing races cannot be counted among our successes this year. Because participation was almost non-existent, no trophy was awarded. We'll try again next year, perhaps with a shortened schedule. More details to come in the Spring Newsletter.

Signage by *Bob Vergette*:

We are attempting to improve the road signs to ensure that you are informed of current and upcoming events that are taking place on and around the lake. We presently have three road signs – they are located at the north shore entrance, the intersection of Hanna Road and Althorpe Rd and at the Douglas Lane entrance (South shore road). If you have any suggestions or recommendations regarding signage, please feel free to contact me.

Watershed Watch by *Dale Ritchie*:

Unfortunately there is nothing to report at this time, we are still waiting for our results of our water testing. Stay tuned for the update in the spring newsletter.

Well that is about it for now, I would like to remind everyone to visit the website in the new year for any updates and events coming up for 2009.

Have a very happy and safe holiday from your Christie Lake Board of Directors.