



**CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.**  
**Spring 2010 NEWSLETTER**  
[www.christielakeassociation.com](http://www.christielakeassociation.com)

*Greetings from the President:* Gordon Hill

My first winter at the Lake was wonderful. Clean white snow blanketed the ground from mid-December to mid-March, but apart from one or two days, the roads were bare and dry. A heavy mid-February snowfall – the last snowfall of the winter - was a photographer’s dream. There was enough cold weather to create ice thick enough to delight skaters, snowmobilers and ice fishermen, but it wasn’t a numbing or painful cold. Many clear, crisp, sunny days! Good walking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing weather. Deer, grouse and turkey tracks dotted the landscape. Lots of deer to see and admire. No rain, no ice storms, no power outages.

Good Friday was sunny and warm, a beautiful start to a gorgeous Easter weekend. In direct sun and sheltered from a cooling breeze off the Lake, the outdoor thermometer on my deck hit 34°C. Pans of slushy ice drifted around the Lake, pushed by a south wind. One, possibly two, motorboats were out enjoying the sun and fresh air, playing chicken with the mini icebergs parading through our gentle ocean. Pleasure Craft Operator Card at the ready, no doubt. It is the law! On Saturday morning, the ice disappeared. It was there, and in an instant, it was gone.

What a wonderful place. Christie Lake is indeed the centre of the universe. We are privileged to share it.

Your Association’s goals for 2010, as they did in 2009, include:

- (a) encouraging and strengthening the sense of community among Christie Lake residents through social and sporting events;
- (b) improving our communication with the Christie Lake community to ensure that:
  - (i) our message is clear and reflects the wishes of our community;
  - (ii) constructive feedback to that message is encouraged and respected;
  - (iii) it is clear to all that your Association’s directors and committees are guided by the principle “educate, don’t regulate”.
- (c) continuing the traditional programmes (e.g. marker buoys, water testing, fishing derby and corn roast) and tackling new issues (e.g. Eurasian Milfoil, zebra mussels).

As always, we encourage your participation in CLA activities. 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. Three of our directors, including our Treasurer, have advised that they do not propose to stand for re-election at this year’s AGM. If you would like to serve as a director or Treasurer, we can certainly use your time and talents.

Wishing you a warm, healthy, happy and safe summer.

***Watershed Watch Program:*** by Dale Ritchie

Once again in 2010 the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and your Christie Lake Association will be conducting their thrice-yearly water quality sampling program. By sampling on a yearly basis, we gain a better understanding of the lake’s water quality and the effect it has on weed growth, fish, waterfowl and other species.

Sampling is conducted at the deepest point in the lake (sixty feet) and at four critical low water points to determine what nutrients are entering the lake and what is leaving. The following is a brief description of the testing that is conducted.

**Water Clarity:**

- Is measured by a Secchi disk: a 20 cm. black and white disk attached to a calibrated line which is lowered into the water until invisible. Water clarity decreases with elevated densities of algae resulting in lower secchi disk readings. The amount of nutrients entering the lake will influence the amount of algae growth.

**Total Phosphorus (TP):**

- The TP water test measures the amount of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, entering the lake. TP is directly related to water quality. The eutrophication process is greatly influenced by such external factors as fertilizer run-off and septic tank leaching.

**Dissolved Oxygen (DO):**

- Is used to determine the amount of oxygen throughout the water column (1 metre through 18 metres) which is available for plants and animals. We are able to determine the amount of DO by the use of a DO meter with a probe attached to the end. Once lowered into the water temperature and DO readings are recorded every metre until the probe reaches one metre from the lake bed.

**Chlorophyll:**

- Is an indicator of the amount of plant growth in the water. Chlorophyll levels are directly affected by the total phosphorus in the lake. The more phosphorus there is in the water, the more algae growth will occur.

At your Annual General Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, I plan to provide you with the historical trend indicators of the results of the testing.

Residents and users of Christie Lake should be encouraged to follow a stewardship approach to limit the amount of nutrients entering the lake. We can all help by doing simple things such as eliminating the use of fertilizers on lakefront property, by having septic tanks pumped every 3-5 years and by creating a vegetative buffer zone between lawns and the lake to aid in erosion prevention.

***Mining Committee Report:*** by David Hill

On April 30 2009, in response to concerns of Ontario property owners and aboriginals the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (“the Ministry”) introduced Bill 173 “The Act to Amend the Mining Act”, representing a major revision of the Ontario Mining Act. Its goal is to promote mining in a manner more respectful to the rights of property owners and aboriginals. In anticipation of passage of the Act the Ministry terminated all new claim staking, on private land in Southern Ontario. Instead, claims will be filed on a map in the office of the Mining Recorder. About 1.4% of Southern Ontario private land does not include ownership of the mineral rights and is open for mining claim filing.

Bill 173 was passed in October 2009 with the stated intention of benefiting mining companies, First Nations, local communities and the Ontario economy. It includes the following measures:

- Incorporating aboriginal consultation in mining legislation and regulation

- Introducing a dispute-resolution process for aboriginal issues in mining
- Requiring awareness training to obtain a prospector's license
- Strengthening environmental considerations during mineral exploration
- Creating an efficient map claim staking system
- Protecting the property rights of private landowners who do not own their mineral rights.

The Ministry will now proceed to consult with stakeholders to develop the regulations that will govern these new processes. Most of the measures contemplated in the Act will be defined in the actual wording of the regulations, none of which have yet been passed.

This legislation should be of significant benefit to Christie Lake residents, since, as it appears from maps available at the Tay Valley Township offices, that most of the waterfront property lying to the west of Big Island is owned by persons who, at the present time, hold surface rights only.

***A Conservation Conversation:*** By Brooke Briggs

While enjoying the Festival of the Maples, I encountered the representative of a firm which installs Solar Panels for parties willing to sell all the power generated back to Hydro One. This enterprise involves an expenditure of approximately \$ 100,000.00 which falls entirely on the selling party. A 10 – 15 % return is “virtually guaranteed” as Hydro One currently purchases power during peak consumption periods for \$1.50 per Kilowatt hour. Ontario Hydro is signing 20 year contracts to pay several times their current costs for energy. Shocking ! It appears fairly obvious that, given the “trendsetting” tens of billions of dollar expenditures just announced by our provincial government for windmills and solar farm subsidies, higher hydro costs are inevitable. (That infamous “debt retirement charge”, the last line on our bills, is going to get a lot larger!) Ohm, my goodness...

Watt to do? Conserve!! There is a myriad of choices from tankless hot water tanks, solar heated water, more efficient heating devices and so on, but retaining the energy is the key. The appropriate type and quantity of insulation is extremely important. Improperly installed insulation can cause expensive problems with moisture or excessive heat buildup. Using the cheapest or most expensive type is not directly tied to performance. Much work can be done by a handyperson with immediate results. A more comprehensive approach involving walls & floors can bring year round comfort to your cottage enabling enjoyment for your full years' tax dollar, not just the summer. And the improvements save you more each year. Past clients report decreases in energy consumption of more than 50%. If it is your 2<sup>nd</sup> residence or is occasionally rented you may be able to write off some of the costs. So r AMP up your enjoyment, whether it's JOULE i or December, insulate & conserve.

*Brooke Briggs is a former President & director of the CLA. Currently managing residential & commercial properties as Briggs Land Services, he has a 30 year history in the contracting & energy conservation businesses. To continue the conversation with Brooke, please call 613-267-1392 or email him at [briggs@xplornet.com](mailto:briggs@xplornet.com).*

***Marker Buoys:*** George James

As a public service, all usual buoys were installed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. With this spring's near record breaking low water levels, caution is advised while boating on the lake. There are rocks exposed which normally would be safely under adequate water depth. It is not unusual, during a storm or high winds for a marker to move or break loose. If you notice a missing marker please phone George James at 613-264-8948. . Please visit our website and print a copy of the map which indicates marker locations and usual water depths.

***Sailing - The Christie Lake Sailing Club (“CLSC”):*** by Gordon Hill

CLSC’s goal is to promote interest in sailing, knowledge of sailing techniques, an understanding of “the rules of the road” and sailing etiquette, and adherence to the principles of boating safety. And let’s not forget eco-friendly fun, exhilaration, exercise, and camaraderie.

To that end, CLSC will hold races starting at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

July	Saturday, July 3; Saturday, July 17,
August	Sunday, August 1, Saturday, August 21
September	Saturday, September 4

Weather and interest permitting, we may hold up to 3 to 5 races each race day, with approximately 3 to 5 minutes between races. Each race should take 20 to 30 minutes depending upon wind conditions. If, on a particular race day, winds should be a “flat” or the weather just bad, races may be rescheduled on the following day.

If you would like to race, be part of the race committee, and receive individualized (no charge) sailing instruction, or simply receive more information, please visit our website at:

[http://www.christielakeassociation.com/sailchristie/sailing\\_club.shtml](http://www.christielakeassociation.com/sailchristie/sailing_club.shtml)

or contact:

Brooke Briggs	613-267-1392	<a href="mailto:briggs@xplornet.com">briggs@xplornet.com</a>
Gordon Hill	613-267-5478	<a href="mailto:gordonhill@xplornet.com">gordonhill@xplornet.com</a>

***Kayaking Course:*** by Apryle Patterson

As mentioned in the Fall Newsletter, the CLA is looking at organizing a Kayaking workshop. Instead of going with Trailhead, we will be contacting the Scout Camp to see if any of their Instructor’s would be interested in holding a half day workshop for the lake residents. If you are interested in this type of workshop, contact Apryle Patterson, [aprylep@sympatico.ca](mailto:aprylep@sympatico.ca), 613-273-6260.

***Membership Drive:*** by Apryle Patterson

Thanks to everyone who has supported the CLA over the past year by purchasing a membership. This year will be my last year as Director in charge of the Memberships. I have decided to focus on other initiatives within the CLA. I am actively looking for someone to fill my shoes. I will still be helping the committee out by canvassing which is my favorite part; getting to know all the wonderful people on the lake and listening to all the wonderful stories has been great. If anyone is interested in becoming a Director and leading this group, please let me know, [aprylep@sympatico.ca](mailto:aprylep@sympatico.ca). 2009’s winners of the \$50.00 gift certificate to the Stone Cellar restaurant in Perth are Laurie and Mark Walters. This year when you sign up your name will be entered in a draw for a \$50.00 gift certificate to Fiddleheads. I noticed last year there are a lot of new faces on the lake, which means that we need to update our current information in our directory and email distribution list. If you have a new neighbor or know of people who have just moved onto the lake, please encourage them to contact me at the above email address. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the membership drive in the spring. It truly is a fun way to get to know people on the lake and share their stories and family histories. If you are interested in helping out, contact me, Apryle Patterson at the above email address or call 613-273-6260. A 2010 membership form is attached to this newsletter.



***Heritage Committee:*** by Donna Walsh

The Heritage committee is continuing research for the upcoming book about the lake. We have interviewed some of the lake's very knowledgeable and fascinating folks and have heard some amazing stories! Local author John McKenty, George James and I have been entertained by more stories of the Bark Factory, the Gray Nuns, Arden Blackburn (early 1900's mailman and savior to many), how great the fishing used to be,

survival in the 30's and the ball games to name just a few! We'll soon be interviewing those seasonal residents who contacted us as they return for the summer season.

If you have a pre-1967 Christie Lake story, anecdote or photograph to share please email it to either Donna Walsh at [dw.boomer@hotmail.com](mailto:dw.boomer@hotmail.com) or to John McKenty at [John.mckenty@sympatico.ca](mailto:John.mckenty@sympatico.ca). You can also call George James at 613-264-8948 to set up your meeting date and time.



***Lake Stewardship Planning Committee (LSPC) Update – May 2010:*** by Austin Sweezey

The Christie Lake Stewardship Planning Committee completed the State of the Lake (SoL) Report in July 2009. This comprehensive document 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. If you haven't read it and would like a copy:

- Download a pdf copy from the Christie Lake Association website
- Request a free copy of the report on CD (email request to [austinsweezey@gmail.com](mailto:austinsweezey@gmail.com))

Results of the second community survey will be posted on the website soon. This survey, conducted in the winter of 2009, has helped us to gauge the level of support and, importantly, the lack of support for issues and interests on the lake. Support has been expressed by survey respondents to initiate or continue activities that focus on education and lake stewardship.

The CLA board of directors has asked the Lake Stewardship Planning Committee to draft an outline of a Lake Stewardship document which would be used as guidance for lake directors (present and future) and as an education tool by all lake residents. Key components of the document will include:

- Surface Water Quality
- Shoreline Naturalization
- Fisheries
- Building a Sense of Community
- Development Pressures
- Wildlife Conservation
- Watercraft Safety

The outline should be ready for circulation and comment by early July. The Stewardship guideline will be a “living document” that will evolve with the changing needs and interests of the lake community.

Once again this spring native shrubs were also obtained by the Lake Association and distributed to lake residents in early May to help in the rehabilitation and enhancement of natural shorelines. If you are interested in participating in future plantings please let us know.

*Involvement and feedback from our lake community remains a key component for our Lake Stewardship initiatives to be effective! Comments, suggestions and concerns are welcome and may be directed to any one of the following LSPC members:*

<b>Austin Sweezey - Chair:</b>	613-829-1323	<i>austinsweezey@gmail.com</i>
<b>Liz Bell:</b>	613-267-2200	<i>lizbell@xplornet.com</i>
<b>Larry Bowen:</b>	613-273-4861	<i>bowensl@rideau.net</i>
<b>Ralph Fish:</b>	613- 267-3268	<i>rfish@superaje.com</i>
<b>Brian Saunders:</b>	613-273-3198	<i>SaundersJamesBrian@yahoo.ca</i>

### **Social Events to Add to Your Calendar:**

**Welcome Back Wine and Cheese:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7p.m. at Christie Lake Camp. B.Y.O.B. All Welcome!

**July 3rd fireworks** at the Christie Lake Marina starting at dusk. Donations to help aid this event can be made at the marina



**Hallow'en In July!** July 24<sup>th</sup> (rain-out July 25<sup>th</sup>) : From 1-3p.m. Children from 0-13 years of age dress in their spookiest costumes and then go dock to dock that display a pumpkin or other Hallow'en décor for treats

**Kids Sunfish Derby!** July 31<sup>st</sup> (rain-out Aug.1st): From dawn until 3:45 pm For children ages 0-13 years fish for sunfish. They are to have an adult count the fish, bring the count (release the fish) to Jordan's for a 4 o'clock count. Prizes for all participants! Cost is \$5/child. Pay the day of the derby to the association representative at Jordan's.



**Corn Roast!** July 31st (rain-out Aug.1st) AFTER the fish derby. **All are welcome!**



**Great Chili Cook-Off:** Pre-register and bring your best pot of chili to the Marina September 5<sup>th</sup> noon sharp!



**End of the Season Dance! :** by Apryle Patterson

Get your dancing shoes on cuz we are going to have a party! The hall is booked and the DJ is pumped. The end of summer dance was such a hit last year, we need to have another! Same place same time, Christie Lake Kids Camp, Saturday, September 4, 2010. Don't forget to mark it on your Calendar. Ben Swezey will be offering a water taxi service to and from the event again this year. More details to follow by email and flyer closer to the event.



**For event updates, details and new events please check our website!**

**[www.christielakeassociation.com](http://www.christielakeassociation.com)**

***Thank-yous:***

- HUGE thanks to Alan and Paul Jordan and families for the kind use of their place by the Christie Lake Association Inc. and Rideau Valley Conservation Authority for the Spring Plant give-away held May 8<sup>th</sup>
- to Mrs. Kerr for her continuing support by letting the large yellow information sign, informing residents of up-coming events, be posted her property

**AGM:**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT The 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the CHRISTIE LAKE**

**ASSOCIATION INC. will be held FRIDAY, JULY 23rd, 2009 at 7.00 p.m. at the TAY RIVER TENT AND**

**TRAILER PARK BUILDING, Christie Lake North Shore Road, about 1 km. west of its intersection with Christie**

**Lake Road/Althorpe Road.**

**2010 CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Yearly Membership: \$50**

1.	Name: (all members 18 & over)	
2.	Address:	
3.	Lake Address:	
4.	Postal/Zip Code:	
5.	Home Phone:	
		Cottage Phone: _____
6.	E-Mail Address:	
7.	Amount Enclosed:	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check box if you consent to allowing your cottage phone number to be published in the Christie Lake Directory.

Return form to:

Christie Lake Association  
P.O. Box 20058  
Perth, Ontario K7H 3M6  
Or

Drop it off with Steve Day at the Christie Lake Marina

Please direct any questions to Apryle Patterson at 613-273-6260.  
Thank you for your support!

