

"THE HIGHLANDS OF HASTINGS"

LIMERICK WATERWAYS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

HONOURARY LIFETIME OFFICIATES:

Cec McBeth, Doris & Norm Poirier, Jim Taylor, Jim Walter

PRESIDENT: (2003/05)
Linda Sheppard
71 Kingswood Rd.
Toronto, ON M4E 3N4
416 691-8894 (474-2116)

PAST PRESIDENT:
James Slater
26 Downey Drive
Brooklin, ON L1M 1J3
905 655-7915 (474-0522)

1st VICE PRESIDENT:
Bob Mofford
1806 Rue Des Arbres
Orleans, ON. K1E 2T6
613 830-0339 (474-2920)

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:
Robert Horne
3 Rochester St.
Carleton Place, ON K7C 2P9
613 257-2546 (474-2132)

TREASURER:
Mary Argue
71 Victoria Park Ave
Toronto, ON M4E 3S2
416 686-6778 (474-2896)

SECRETARY:
Chris Offshack
Limerick Lodge & Marina
R.R.#2, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0
(613) 474-2144

DIRECTORS:

Bob Bennett
26 Pine Street
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1B4
905 852-6740 (474-0696)

Sharon Carson
752 Grace St.
Newmarket, ON. L3Y 2L3
905 898-1835 (474-2072)

Ron Chapman
549 Sidney St.
Belleville, ON. K8P 4A4
613 966-2910 (474-2303)

David Horne
17 Inverness Drive
Guelph, ON N1E 3L7
519 824-8057 (474-2132)

John Nayler
Box 196, R.R.#2
Gilmour, ON. K0L 1W0
613 474-2868

Mel Hamilton
243 Dundas Street East
Belleville, ON. K8N 1E2
613 474-2325

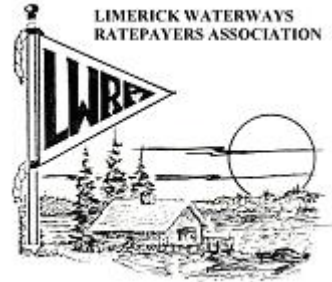
Robert Porter
254 Pine Street
Belleville, ON K8N 2N4
(474-2325)

Victor Smith
13 Parkside Dr.
Trenton ON. K8V 5L6
613 9651933 (474-2403)

JUNE 2005

To: Members and Friends of the LWRA

We've got a very full newsletter for you this month, as there have been so many things happening since the last newsletter was distributed during the winter. First off I'd like to introduce myself, Chris Offshack, as your new LWRA Newsletter Editor. I got my hands wet with the last one but this is my first newsletter done from scratch. Hopefully you'll find our content this time around interesting and informative. We've been enjoying very warm summer temperatures here at Limerick the last 2 weeks, I know many of you have been here to enjoy the early taste of what's hopefully to come the next few months. In the meantime, here's what has been and what will be going on around our waterways.



First The Big News

There have been many changes and events surrounding the Back-Lot Development on the southwest shore of Limerick Lake. Our LWRA President, Linda Sheppard, has prepared a comprehensive update on the situation and it will be the main content on the next 4 pages of the newsletter. Unfortunately not all the news is good, but from the sound of it the fight is far from over. The hearings that had been scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd week of June were not held as originally planned, and there are many other changes from the last updates. Of course as other changes may occur at any time, please check back to the LWRA website (<http://lwra.limericklake.com>) often for the latest updates as well as copies of this newsletter.

The L.W.R.A. 2005 Events Schedule

Sunday, May 22, 2005 - Victoria Day Weekend

Directors Meeting, 10am, Limerick Lodge

Saturday, July 2, 2005 - Canada Day Weekend

Directors Meeting, 9:30am, Limerick Lodge

****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 10:30AM - LIMERICK LODGE****

Saturday, July 30, 2005 - Civic Holiday Weekend

Cottagers Picnic & BBQ, Time T.B.A. , Limerick Lodge

Sunday, September 4, 2005 - Labour Day Weekend

Directors Meeting, 10am, Limerick Lodge

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This Newsletter is published twice a year by the Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association. The intent of the Newsletter is to keep cottagers informed of the happenings on and around the lakes. The articles and views expressed here in are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the L.W.R.A. or the editor. Comments, articles and suggestions can be directed to: LWRA Newsletter c/o Chris Offshack, 123 Limerick Lodge Rd. RR#2, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0, Phone: 613-474-2144, Email: chris@limericklodge.com 6/22/2005

LIMERICK WATERWAYS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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Cec McBeth, Doris & Norm Poirier, Jim Taylor, Jim Walter

June 17, 2005

Dear Cottagers,

First, welcome to the summer of 2005 and may it be an improvement on 2004. While we can't predict the weather, we can say with certainty that LWRA's fight at the OMB will be continuing during the summer and into the fall. As you read in our fund-raising letter, we were very fortunate to be able to retain John Sewell, former mayor of Toronto, as our agent for the OMB hearings and he has been working very hard for us over the past several months. He is now representing Limerick Township as well so we are able to work jointly with the township to oppose the developer's application to add 53 more lots to Limerick Estates, 29 of which are within 300 metres of the shore of Limerick Lake. (These are lots we should note that he willingly gave up in 1999.)

Before proceeding further with my OMB report, while your executive may seem interested in only one thing at the moment, I want to reassure you that all our normal summer activities will be going on as usual – our annual general meeting with a special presentation on lake trout will be on Sat., July 2nd, our annual barbecue on Sat., July 30th, water testing, the loon survey etc. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or questions, please get in touch with any of the executive as we would be happy to speak with you about your concerns.

OMB - Update

- March 3 and 10 (telephone) 2005 – OMB prehearing to decide on issues and procedure for rehearing; decision was to split the hearing into two parts – two weeks in June to argue the science and technology issues around phosphorus and septic matters; two weeks in October to argue planning and environment issues like stormwater management.
- May 12 – a hearing in Toronto to argue the developer's application for a 12-month extension of his draft approval for his 88-lot subdivision; we and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing opposed the application but on June 7th, the OMB granted Trident a 6-month extension after the conclusion of the OMB hearings on the deleted lots.

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- LWRA (now with the township) hired an expert witness, a hydrogeologist, Rick McGregor, to give evidence at the hearing on the science and new technology issues; Rick has been most helpful to John Sewell to date in explaining some of the science data in the witness statements of the experts from the Ministry and the Trident; we have also submitted a witness statement from Councillor Dave Golem on the long-term implications for the township of the proposed new lots.
- June 9 – Bob Mofford and Reeve Wayne Longmuir attended a meeting of the Planning Committee of Hastings County to request that the Trident application for approval of a Common Elements Condominium Corporation for 141 lots be deferred until after a decision on Trident's application at the OMB; we were pleased that this request was granted by the Committee although we have to say that Trident didn't oppose the deferral. (A Common Elements Condo Corporation would hold things like roads, recreation areas, and other vacant land in the development area.)

Recent Important OMB Developments

This brings us to June 15, when we again attended a hearing in Belleville. But, significant developments changed the whole focus of the hearing. Until Friday, June 10th, we had been preparing for two weeks of testimony on the science and technology issues related to the application for the 53 lots. Then, on Friday, we learned that Trident and the Ministry (MAH) had been meeting and negotiating the terms of a settlement. They had not worked out all the details but the bare bones had them agreeing to 29 lots within the 300 metre setback of Limerick Lake and the installation of the new technology Phosphex septic units on these lots. These systems are supposed to reduce the level of phosphorus to a point where it will not harm the lake or the lake trout – at least that is what is claimed although, to our knowledge, there is very limited or no data to support this claim on a long-term basis. As you would expect, these systems are quite expensive to install and monitor.

We were shocked to learn of this development and surprised at the actions of the Ministry which seemed inconsistent with what they had been saying, especially in their witness statements. Trident and the Ministry in fact came to the hearing on the 15th but only to ask for a further

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adjournment until Sept. so they could work further on their deal.

We were of course very, very concerned about this development. In the end, we supported the adjournment request with conditions but made the point that neither we nor the township supported a negotiated settlement because as John Sewell said: Trident had not honoured the settlement it agreed to in 1999, and we think the issues are too large and significant to be handled in a settlement such as that being contemplated. Sewell said we wanted adjudication on the science evidence. We believe that the decisions on this application will have implications that are province-wide.

Fortunately for us, OMB Member Culham said he thought it was necessary for the Board to hear scientific evidence on these matters – he was quite insistent on this -- even if there is a proposed settlement. He said he had read a number of the witness statements, and referred to some filed by the Ministry, and those filed by Rick McGregor (the Association's expert witness) and by Dave Golem, Limerick councillor. He indicated he had a substantial interest in water issues. He was concerned that the way the scientists resolved their differences had to be part of the hearing record and his judgment.

Member Culham understood that a settlement which involves development within the 300m setback from Limerick, an at-capacity cold water lake-trout lake, may provoke interest from other outside groups and organizations, and seemed to understand the necessity for the proposed settlement to be public and available before the Board considered its merits. He offered to schedule hearings on several evenings if this were needed to allow interested parties to speak on these issues. He suggested that the Association and/or the Township submit the names and addresses of such organizations as quickly as possible to the Board. When we indicated that we didn't really know what this might entail at this point, and it may take several weeks to get a list of interested parties, he indicated that he wanted to have those names by the September 8 hearing. It

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was agreed the Board will meet on September 8, at 10 am in the Ramada Inn, Belleville, to settle procedural matters but the main hearings will take place as originally scheduled in October.

In informal conversation following the proceedings, we and the township agreed we should draft letters to be sent to all of those we think would have an interest in the proposed settlement – other municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, cottage associations, environmental groups and the media. John Sewell will draft the letters and we'll try to compile the lists of who they will be sent to.

In terms of other meetings, the next big challenge is the County Planning Committee on July 14 regarding Trident's application for an Official Plan amendment to the Hastings County Official Plan to allow them to build within the 300 meter setback.

In closing, what the hearing on June 15th did for us, we think, is give us an opening to put our case to the Board even though a proposed settlement will be put forward. As well, it will allow us to bring as much outside pressure as we can organize for the October hearings to support our opposition to the terms of the settlement. At this point, we plan to contact people and groups who we believe will be very concerned that the Ministry is willing to put our lake trout fishery in danger by allowing significant development within the 300 metre setback of Limerick Lake and the installation of new and largely untested septic technology.

Lastly, on behalf of the LWRA Board of Directors, I want to thank all those who have so generously made donations so that we can carry on our fight to keep our waterways clean and healthy. The OMB will definitely be on our agenda at our AGM so if you want more information or have some ideas about groups to contact for the October hearing, please come out to the meeting. Alternatively, feel free to get in touch with me or any member of the executive at any time.

Linda Sheppard, Pres.

Toronto – 416-691-8894; cottage – 613-474-2116 or lwshep@sympatico.ca

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TOWNSHIP NEWS:

The Limerick Township Dump is in the process of becoming a transfer station. The next time you stop by the disposal facility you will immediately notice the changes. Metal scrap is already going into dumpsters at the time of the writing of this letter. All household garbage will be going into similar dumpsters in the near future. Everyone is reminded you **MUST** have your waste disposal site card (the "new pink one") when you arrive at the disposal site, as well as bag tags for each bag of non-recyclable household waste. The bags are available at the dump, with 10 tags being \$10. Single tags are available for purchase for \$1.50 ea. at Limerick Lake Lodge & Marina's lakeside store. Dump hours for the summer are again 1PM-8PM Wednesday, Sunday, and Holiday Mondays and 10AM - 5PM Saturdays.

The Limerick Township Fire Department is in need of volunteers - if you know someone who is available to volunteer please encourage them to become involved.

COTTAGE COUNTRY LATEST:

By: Editor

This is a new feature I've added to the newsletter, since I think many of us come to the area and seclude ourselves at the cottage, and don't take much time to find out what might be going on at areas nearby. The summer is full of activities around North Hastings, between Madoc and The Algonquin.

I've collected up a list of some of the more popular events that will be taking place this summer and a little bit about each activity so

You can decide if they may interest you or your family, and plan accordingly.

July 9, 2005

Wakeboard Demo Day at Steenburg Lake -
The OWA Nautiques X-Cup extends an invitation to anyone interested in wakeboarding, water sports, or just having a great time out to our fun events. Meet new people, support amateur athletes, and be amazed by some of our nation's best wakeboarders and raw new talent!

July 28 - July 31, 2005

Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree -
42nd annual Rockhound Gemboree
The Gemboree continues to grow in size and in the number of attraction that it offers to both amateur and serious rock hounders. The most popular show features include expert gem identification, a swapping area, gold panning, and mineral talks.

Show Hours:

Thursday: 10am to 7:00pm
Friday: 10:00am to 9:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am to 7:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00am to 5:00pm

August 26 - August 27, 2005

Coe Hill Fair -

The Coe Hill Agriculture Fair is an annual event usually held the last weekend in August, since 1882; featuring many different events such as; an automobile daredevil thrill show, musical & dancing entertainment, and an exciting midway. The traditional rural fair attractions are offered too, with farm animals, antique displays & friendly competitions. The horse draw has also been a popular event since the early times.

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FOCA UPDATE:

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations was recently represented at the Toronto Cottage Life Show (April 1-3), and the Ottawa Country Homes & Cottage Show (April 8-10). Together, these shows attract a total attendance of 50,000, providing a great opportunity to meet so many from Ontario's cottaging community.

These shows are a chance for waterfront residents from across Southern Ontario to meet some of the volunteers and staff from FOCA, and to discuss their most important issues.

Property taxes, shoreline development, and water quality continue as key themes amongst the folks we meet. FOCA remains vigilant on these fronts, and as part of our show presence, we featured an update on property tax reforms, and WRAFT www.wraft.com, plus our ongoing water monitoring partnership with the Ministry of the Environment's Lake Partner Program. Association insurance is also top-of-mind with many waterfront associations, and we are pleased once again to be offering General Liability, Directors and Officers coverage, and Private Road liability insurance, made available through LMS PROLINK.

These spring shows are a great kick off to the coming summer season. If you missed these events, you can stay on top of current cottaging issues by visiting the FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca often.

Announcing "Docktalk" - Motivating action on shoreline protection.

Docktalk is a landowner contact program

coordinated through FOCA and delivered by FOCA member organizations in 2005 and 2006, with support from the Trillium Foundation. Using local expertise, and one-on-one contact, Docktalk will better enable shoreline property owners to be good stewards of their lake environments. More information is available on the FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca.

Introducing "Cottage Choice" - A WEB based service designed for cottagers

FOCA announces a new program for individuals who are members of a FOCA Member Association. Cottage Choice is a valuable membership program specially designed for you. For more information visit www.cottagechoice.ca

LIMERICK LAKE LATEST:

By: The Editor

This article has some of the latest tidbits of conversation heard around the lake - call it gossip or conversation - but whatever you call it, it's all for fun!

- High water this spring. It seems the new dam doesn't let heavy rainfalls or the spring runoff escape quite as quick - be careful around waterfront portions of your property - you might have some slight flooding.
- Warm Weather and Water. With over 10 days in June reaching 30C, the water is the warmest I've ever seen it before Canada day, 26C on the surface, 23C at 5 feet deep.
- Cottage Prices. Many people's minds are reeling at the prices that cottages

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on Limerick Lake are selling for or even just listed at. Just a few years ago \$200,000 was unheard of. This year prices are easily tempting \$300,000 for your average ordinary cottage. Some have listings far above that. If you're interested you can always find real estate listings on www.mls.ca and choose Eastern Ontario 7 - Bancroft - Hastings - Limerick.

- Channel Markings and Conditions. The channel to St. Ola Lake from Limerick Lake has been marked - it's changed some from last year, there are logs and obstructions that have moved - be careful.

FUND RAISING UPDATE:

By: Mary Argue

THANK YOU to all donors to the Heritage Fund!

The fundraising committee wishes to thank all cottagers who have contributed to the Heritage Fund. We are grateful that the members of the association have come together to support a cause which affects everyone who enjoys our waterways. Your response to our appeal for funds has been terrific. To date over 50 cottagers have made a contribution !

While the fundraising drive has enjoyed a good start, we have not yet reached our target. If you have not sent your contribution, please consider making a donation. Cheques may be sent to Mary Argue, 71 Victoria Park Ave, Toronto, M4E-3S2 or left at the Limerick Lodge store.

WATER QUALITY & TESTING:

By: The Editor

As a member of the Lake Partner Program L.W.R.A. received the following test summary:

YEAR	Avg. Secchi Depth (M)	No. Of Secchi Readings	Avg. Total Phosphorus	No. Of Phos Readings
2000	6.2	2	6.0	2
2001	6.6	2	8.0	2
2002	6.3	1	6.0	2
2003	6.1	1	6.2	2
2004	5.6	1	7.3	2

Starting with 2003 the total Phosphorus is not an average of the total years but the actual for the given year.

Thank you John Nayler for again looking after the water testing for Limerick Lake.

HIGH WATER CONDITIONS:

By: The Editor

Many people have stated concern over the somewhat higher water levels on Limerick lake this year. There have been a number of factors contributing to this, including but not limited to the very high rainfall during early June and the design of the new dam at St. Ola (the spillway is not higher, but the flow rate at which it allows water to escape the lake is slightly lower, causing a longer drawdown period after a rainfall). If you have concerns you should contact the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority at either : (613) 472-3137 , or on the web at: <http://www.crowevalley.com> , or via email: info@crowevalley.com .

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windy and stormy early May. Bob spent an entire day at the Marina assisting in putting the boathouse and docks back in their proper position so cottagers coming up for the following weekend would be able to use the launch ramp and their boat slips.

This summer there won't be too many other changes taking place around the marina, our construction of the outside boat slips is complete and they are filling up very fast. We would like to remind those with outside slips to please make sure your boats are either well covered or have automatic bilge pumps, as it doesn't take too many thunderstorms and rainy days to put your boat in serious trouble. If you notice any sunken debris or barrels near your boat slips please tell any staff member you see around and we will get someone to look into it immediately. A reminder to those who park in our lots, please double-check your interior and exterior lights before you leave the docks, it's all too easy to forget in the rush of loading the boat and unloading the car, and getting you and yours over to the cottage. On your return to the landing your car will most definitely need a boost before you'll be going anywhere!

We have a small lost & found in our marina store, so if you get home or to the cottage, and find something missing, give us a call at the store (press 2 when calling 474-2144).

LIMERICK LODGE UPDATES:

By: Limerick Lodge Staff

Many of you may have noticed the large pile of construction debris near the Lodge this spring. We've now completed our renovation project and have a Laundry Area that is available for our customers to use, as well as a public washroom and shower easily accessible from the outside that is available 24x7 for anyone who needs an indoor washroom facility. This should be a big help to those of you needing facilities during the cottager's picnic on the Civic Holiday Weekend.

Next I would like to extend a personal thank you to Bob Mofford for his assistance this spring when our North-most boathouse and attached open docks broke free of their moorings overnight during a particularly

THAT'S A WRAP

By: The Editor

Thanks everyone for sticking it out through my first newsletter. Please keep our Buy/Sell ad space in mind when you've got something to go! See the back of this page to join or renew your LWRA membership!

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Dear Cottager,

Are you a member of Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association? If so have you let your membership dues lapse? If you haven't paid your dues for 2005 they are due now.

L.W.R.A. needs your support NOW more than ever. The Backlot Development, High Tax Assessments, New Zoning By-Laws, and Environmental Issues are but a few of the issues that will impact cottage life as you know it. The L.W.R.A. executive is working hard on your behalf and needs the support of EVERY cottage on our lake system, including St. Ola and Mephisto lakes. The stronger the cottage association, the greater the voice we will have in fighting these issues. The L.W.R.A. has previously sent a formal request suggesting a \$150 donation to the heritage fund to help defray our mounting legal costs associated with the Backlot Development. If you haven't already made a donation please consider including it with your membership dues and indicate such on the Heritage Fund donation line on the form below.

Please take a few minutes to complete the attached registration form and submit it either via mail or to the Limerick Lake Lodge & Marina store. Please be sure to make all cheques payable to "Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association" **NOT** "LWRA". If you drop your form off at Limerick Lake Lodge & Marina you can pay via Visa, MasterCard, Interac, cash, or cheque.

LIMERICK WATERWAYS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

C/o Mary Argue, Treasurer

71 Victoria Park Ave.

Toronto, Ontario M4E 3S2

Enclosed are my Annual Dues in the amount of \$25 for the year 2005

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ CIVIL ADDRESS: _____

Enclosed is an additional contribution to the LWRA heritage fund in the amount of: \$ _____

Volunteers are always welcome so if you would like to help out with any events such as the Picnic, LWRA Childrens Fair, Sailing and Canoe races, Rockbass Derby, or in any other way, please indicate by checking off this box and indicating your interest below: