

"THE HIGHLANDS OF HASTINGS"

LIMERICK WATERWAYS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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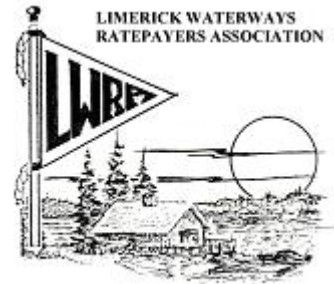
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JULY 2006

To: Members and Friends of the LWRA

Welcome to the Summer 2006 LWRA Newsletter and cottage country update, bringing you the latest news on all the issues that effect each and every one of us who spends time on Limerick Lake and its connected waterways. As the summer progresses on, we're here to let you know all the latest news and views that are impacting life in cottage country, from developments, septic systems, taxes and assessments, and invasive species, there's never been a more important time to keep your eyes and ears open about what is happening on the waterfronts of the Limerick Waterways.



What's NEWS this issue?

The hearings regarding the Limerick Estates development are still in progress, however several of the important topics have now been wrapped up at least for the time being. There are still a few critical outstanding issues that will be attended to at hearings this fall, most critically, planning issues regarding the lots that face St. Ola lake. For more information read the letter included in this newsletter written by John Sewell, LWRA's legal representation throughout the hearing process.

LWRA has formed a septic systems committee to foster a program of education for cottagers who desire or require more information regarding how to maintain, install, or repair septic systems in sensitive natural environments, such as near the lake shore, and in this newsletter we've got some updates from the committee for your reading.

Since changes and additional information may come along at any time, please check back to the LWRA website (<http://www.lwra.ca>) often for the latest updates as well as copies of this newsletter.

L.W.R.A. Summer 2006 Events Schedule

Saturday, August 5, 2006 – Civic Holiday Weekend

Canoe Races, 10am – Fraser's Beach

****ANNUAL COTTAGERS PICNIC – 3:30PM - LIMERICK LODGE****

Sunday, August 6, 2006 – Civic Holiday Weekend

Kids Fishing Derby, 11am Weigh-In, Limerick Marina Launch Ramp

Sailboat Races, 2:00pm, Coxwell Cottage (Civ#202)

Sunday, September 3, 2006 - 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 7/22/2006

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President's message June 2006

Dear LWRA Members:

I am pleased to have this, my second opportunity, to represent the members of LWRA as President. I wish to congratulate and thank our past President, Linda Shepard for her outstanding leadership and dedication over the past four years. Linda continues to play an important role in heading up the LWRA Committee dealing with OMB, Trident Inc. and back lot development. I also wish to thank you, the membership of LWRA, for the outstanding financial support. Given your response to our fund raising initiative I know we are headed in the right direction and truly speaking for our membership.

It has been an extremely busy year with LWRA participating in several OMB hearings in Belleville and Toronto. The MPAC property assessment continues to be a major issue with assessments raising as much as 96%. Thus there will be some major increases in taxes. LWRA has initiated a Septic Committee to look into ways to provide our members with the latest information available on installing, inspecting and maintaining your septic system. LWRA has been monitoring the quality of water under the Lake Partnership program and testing the lake for invading species such as zebra mussels, etc. In 2006 we will continue to be active in the programs mentioned above as well other environmental and FOCA supported initiatives. Local issues such as the Municipal Elections this November, our Township Waste Disposal Site and Building Zoning bylaws are but a few of the local programs we will be actively involved in on your behalf..

Up to date information on these topics, and others, may be found on our revised website at "www.lwra.ca" and in the LWRA Newsletter. I encourage you to visit lwra.ca often to stay abreast of the latest events and issues affecting our members and the waterways.

Our Associations strength is based on its members thus it is important that we maintain a strong membership base. In the past year we represented over two thirds of the cottages on Limerick, St.Ola and Mephisto. I think a 100% representation for 2006 is possible. If you are not a member of LWRA I urge you to consider joining and thus giving LWRA the strongest possible voice in protecting the quality of our water and thus quality of life on our waterways.

I wish everyone a most enjoyable summer at the cottage and hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting July 01 and at the LWRA Picnic on August 05.

Sincerely

Bob Mofford
President, LWRA
613 474-2920

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June 7, 2006

To: Reeve Wayne Longmuir
And Members of Council

And to:

Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association

This letter reports on the Ontario Municipal Board hearing held on Thursday, June 1, 2006 regarding Limerick Lake.

The hearing was called to deal with a motion brought by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to try to split off some issues that Trident wanted to include in the planning hearing about the 22 lots close to St. Ola Lake for which it wants approval. The OMB had decided after the January hearing that it would allow a planning hearing to be held on the St. Ola lots but Trident's planner had included in his affidavit a number of matters that related to lands within 300 meters of Limerick Lake. For instance, Mr. Hunter included the common-elements condominium plan and zoning amendment for land within 300 meters of Limerick Lake. Brenda Linington argued very strongly for the Ministry that it was improper to include these matters in the hearing about St. Ola lots since the Board decision in November had specifically said that more planning studies had to be done before lots could be established within 300 meters of Limerick Lake.

The day before the hearing it was clear that some kind of settlement could be arranged between the parties, and instead of holding a hearing on June 1, we spent the morning settling the wording of the kind of decision we wanted from Board Member David Culham. The settlement stated that anything related to land within 300 meters of Limerick Lake would be adjourned to a future date to be set once Trident came forward with new scientific evidence in three years time. It was also agreed that in the St. Ola hearing Trident would be allowed to propose a driveway, with lay-bys, in the 300 meter zone, providing that the driveway was no wider than 3 meters. It was also agreed that the land considered to be used for open space in the 1999 decision would be zoned for open space until Trident makes its application with more scientific evidence.

We agreed that the hearing on the planning issues of the 22 St. Ola lots will proceed on Monday, October 2 in Belleville for a period of four days. Matters such as zoning and related planning issues will be dealt with at a second phase of this hearing on a date to be

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determined in November we established dates to exchange an issues list, witnesses, and so forth, for the St. Ola lots.

Member David Culham, who officially retires from the OMB at the end of June, agreed to conduct the October 2 hearing, something which all parties requested since he is fully cognizant of the issues.

I believe that the interests of both the Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association and the Township of Limerick were well protected in this settlement. I also believe that much of the credit for the settlement is a result of the careful work done by Brenda Linington.

Ms. Linington indicated that the Ministry may not be involved in the hearing on the St. Ola lots although they expect to send their planner, Joe Gallivan, to a meeting of experts and he will review all documentation regarding these lots.

Yours very truly,

John Sewell

Newsletter News	LWRA Directors Elections
<p>This is the last newsletter that I, Chris Offshack, will be editing for the LWRA. Unfortunately my time to commit to the projects of the LWRA has become much more limited than it has been in the past few years and as such has forced me to pass on the proverbial torch, but I'm happy to announce that Allan Coxwell has graciously offered to be our LWRA newsletter editor starting with this winter's newsletter. Allan is a professional editor and will bring a level of professionalism to the LWRA newsletter unmatched anywhere. So, I would like to thank all of you who have kept up reading the LWRA newsletter during my stay as editor the last 2 years, and hope you will find the content, layout, and messages included in the future ever improving with our new editor.</p> <p>All the best, Chris Offshack</p>	<p>At the LWRA Annual General Meeting, held Saturday July 1, 2006, The annual Director's Elections were held, and the outcome of this years event were as such:</p> <p>We had 3 directors who turned in resignations prior to the election due to various personal constraints, etc. and agreed to step aside to let in new directors who would be more able to fully commit themselves to the events of the LWRA, so there were several openings at the election for new directors. The board of directors decided to allow all of the nominees to become directors to fill the openings, with four nominees for the 3 openings, this brought the board to 16 members. Added to the board of directors this summer is:</p> <p>Roger Porter George Offshack Allan Coxwell Holly Bennett</p> <p>If you have a chance, introduce yourself to our newest directors and congratulate them!</p>

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MPAC Assessments

As most of you have found when you received your MPAC assessment notice last fall, and your tax bill this summer, the valuation of waterfront property under the new "market value assessment" strategy of MPAC has resulted in some unpleasant surprises. It's not unheard of for people's tax bill to be almost twice what it was last year. There is some good news to report however, in just the past few weeks the Ontario Government has agreed to put a 2 year freeze on assessment changes, until the procedures of MPAC have been fully reviewed, and the impact of market value assessments has been more thoroughly investigated. So, unfortunately, your new higher assessed waterfront property won't be going down in assessment value, however for the time being it will hold at its current value. This year waterfront property in Limerick Township increased in assessment overall by over 30%, indicating a significant shift of tax dollars collected to seasonal residents who may obtain fewer services than other residents due to their short times of stay in the township.

Also, remember, if you feel your assessment value was unfair or inaccurate; you do have the right to appeal to MPAC each year before the March 31st deadline. Often times it is found that the assessment was based on assumptions about your cottage, such as "this cottage has a boathouse and sleeping cabin" when in fact it may not. All those little details can significantly impact your assessed value, so it is worth checking on. However, the flip side of the coin is, you may alert them to

improvements or other items of note that may just make your value higher than it was before – if you know your neighbour's cottage just sold for \$200,000 and your assessed value on a very similar cottage is \$150,000 – you may not help yourself pursuing a fight against that number – it may just be accurate or even low based on market value.

Ontario's Lake Partner Program

By: John Naylor

The LWRA has been involved in this program since 1996 when Jim Walter looked after taking the samples.

We take water samples each Spring to measure Total Phosphorus and Secchi disc readings twice a month to measure water clarity. These measurements allow the Ministry of the Environment to detect long-term changes in the water quality of individual lakes.

Total Phosphorus – Generally more phosphorus means more algal growth and a decrease in water clarity. Lakes with less than 10 µG/L TP are categorized as unproductive lakes and rarely experience nuisance algal blooms. Limerick Lake readings since 1996 have averaged between 6 and 8, so appear to still be in good shape as far as nutrient status is concerned. (2005 reading=6.9)

Secchi Disc Reading – Even though the phosphorus readings are good, it is still worthwhile to collect Secchi Disc information, since this data can detect changes in water clarity that are not linked to nutrient status. These may include effects due to invading species like Zebra Mussels or from changes in the climate. Any reading where you can see over 5 meters down is considered excellent clarity. Limerick Lake has averaged 6-7 meters since 1996. (2005 reading = 6.3 meters)

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LWRA SEPTIC COMMITTEE:

Since our last report, the committee has been gathering more information about septic systems which could be helpful to cottagers interested in keeping their systems in good repair.

We were fortunate to learn about a program called "Get Pumped" that was started by the Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association. The Association put together an information package which they distributed to all cottagers on their lake.

The package contained

- basic information about how septic systems work
- how septic systems contribute to poor water quality in our lakes if they aren't working properly
- steps to take for people interested in having their systems inspected or pumped.

They were able to find a company that pumps systems at water access cottages and to date, 48 cottagers have signed up to have their systems pumped.

The Weslemkoon Association has volunteered to come to the LWRA general meeting on July 1st and will be making a presentation on this very successful project.

Our committee will be discussing starting a similar program for Limerick Waterways.

In the meantime, for those interested in finding out more having a system pumped, the company they used was Kawartha Utility Services in Lakefield – 705-654-4000.

More information will be available on or after the AGM on July 1st.

Ron Chapman

Robert Horne

Vic Smith

Linda Sheppard

FOR MORE SEPTIC INFORMATION:

Interesting Reading, Links and Websites to visit for more information regarding Waste Water disposal/management/etc:

If you get the COTTAGE LIFE Magazine , there are a number of advertisements about disposing of sewage solids in communities just like ours.

Websites:

www.waterloo-biofilter.com

www.ecofloontario.com,

www.ecoethic.ca

www.sun-mar.com

www.incinolet.ca

www.wastewater.ca

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INVASIVE SPECIES REPORTING

By: Mel Hamilton, 2nd Vice President, LWRA

Beginning in the summer of 2005, the LWRA participated in a study to detect potential invasive species in our waterways. This program was focused their data collection and results on zebra mussels and spiny water flea. Invading species such as these can cause serious ecological and economic problems for lakes. Invading species threaten biodiversity as they compete against indigenous species for food and habitat. Moving up the food chain, this may impact trout and bass populations negatively.

The zebra mussel, spiny water flea, and their respective larvae are spread by natural and human made pathways. Nature carries these animals by water currents or by other animals. We can help stop the spread of invasive species by ensuring that boats, trailers, motors, ballast water, and live wells are properly cleaned and disinfected when leaving or before entering any water body.

The results from the 2005 study show that Limerick Lake is free of the targeted invasive species. However, Steenburg Lake (which is upstream from Limerick) was found to contain the larvae (baby) stage of both the invasive species in question.

For more info visit www.invadingspecies.com or call 1-800-563-7711

When will we be overrun with Zebra Mussels?

By: FAPEL (Quebec)

Nobody can tell. If zebra mussels can travel from the Caspian Sea to the Great lakes by hanging on to the hull of ships, doesn't it follow that they could use the same type of transportation and attach themselves to pleasure boats to invade our lakes? Maybe! Lets look at this more closely. Zebra mussels invaded the Saint Lawrence river that fast, most probably because they found excellent living conditions in its waters. But nothing suggests they could invade our lakes as easily. As a matter of fact, an encouraging study has just been published on the subject. Focusing on more than 11 000 lakes of the north eastern part of the United States, that study indicate that only lakes characterised by

a pH level higher than 7,3 are vulnerable to a zebra mussel invasion. It is a sizeable obstacle in Quebec, where most lakes have low pH waters. But for a few exceptions, our lakes seem to be shielded against zebra mussels. Except the Saint Lawrence river, where the waters are alkaline, zebra mussels may very well not find winning conditions to sustain their invasion of our lakes.

What can we do?

We can monitor the pH level of the lake. And if the pH level of the water is lower than 7,3, then the lake is not vulnerable. Great! And if the pH level of the water is higher than 7,3, the lake is vulnerable and we know it, but there is nothing much that can be done. There are no proven techniques to ensure against zebra mussels colonisation.

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Limerick Lodge News

After 5 years of hard work at Limerick Lake Lodge, proprietor Chris Offshack is moving to the Kingston, Ontario area to marry his long time girl friend Emily Greer this Labour Day weekend. (Perhaps you have seen the notices for a party in Chris and Emily's honour at the marina on July 29th)

During some winter of 2006 negotiations, older brother George has acquired the business from Chris and has returned to Limerick Lake on a full time basis to operate the business. Chris is retaining ownership of his personal residence, and will have it available for a few select weekly rentals starting in the spring of 2007. Keep this in mind if you have family or small groups who might want to visit Limerick Lake but you don't have room at your own cottage, and they are looking for a more home-like atmosphere and are not into roughing it in a tent in your yard.

Don't forget that we now have a 12 foot by 24 foot barge for rent that will float about 5 tons with ease. We have used it around the facility, and it is really handy as a work platform, or to move large quantities of heavy building materials down the lake. The delivery trucks from Home Depot or Rona can set heavy pallets of materials right on it using their booms, saving you from handling the materials at this end of the lake.

The fishing has been phenomenal this year. The season opened with several 4 pound bass being brought in. That was followed by some long time visitors from St. Louis, MO catching several fish over 5 lbs. One weighed in at 5lb, 13oz. This past weekend the pros showed us how to do it. 11 boats of pros on the lake for a catch and release tournament on July 16th brought in numerous 4 lb and one 6 lb largemouth. That is the largest fish weighed in at the marina so far this year.

The store continues to be fully stocked with goodies of all types. The snack selection has

moved up-scale this year with penny candy being eliminated and things like martini olives and Bloody Mary mix being added. There are also a few snacks courtesy of our US visitors that are not usually available in local convenience stores. The marina is just about full. There is a waiting list for covered slips for boats over 72" wide, and only 4 open boat slips available for rent. There are 2 covered slips for smaller boats (under 72" wide) available. I expect all of those to be committed by the end of the season, so if you are even remotely interested in keeping a boat at the marina for the 2007 season, please inquire quickly.

The store also has 2 public Internet access computers. The Internet connection is a high speed, bi-directional satellite link. You can check your e-mail, or browse your favourite web site while your boat is being refueled. Now that is bringing modern convenience north of 7. One of the computers also has a multiple format chip reader in it. That allows you to easily upload digital pictures regardless of the make or model of your camera. Imagine e-mailing your pictures home or to friends from the convenience of our marina store.

If you have any questions or comments please contact George Offshack directly by email at george@limericklodge.com

Summer Newsletter Wrap-Up

Remember this newsletter is always available on the LWRA website at <http://lwra.ca> - as are many other past issues of the newsletter since 2002. Please be sure to read and fill out the enclosed 2006 Membership flyer, your membership is very important to the LWRA - it's what gives the association the footing it needs to be able to represent your concerns at things such as OMB hearings and other proceedings where we represent your interests.

Remember, if there's information you want included in a future newsletter, please send it to lwra@limericklake.com.