



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006

Co-Chairs' Message

Our Annual General Meeting was held on August 12, 2006, and a new Board of Directors elected to serve your needs during the upcoming year. We extend our thanks to Past Chair, Bill Somers, for all his hard work this past year and to former Directors David Johnstone, Andy Barnett, Fred Knell, Anna Landry and Brenda Richards for their efforts on behalf of HLC. We welcome new directors to HLC and thank past directors for agreeing to serve yet another term. Your Board members for the year 2006-07 are as follows:

Co-Chair, **Elaine Jackson**, Fox Lake Association
Co-Chair, **Mary McCulley**, Chub Lake Association
Secretary, **Bill Somers**, Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association
Treasurer, **Lynda Howe**, Fox Lake Association
Past Chair, **Bill Somers**, Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association
Director, **Burr Atkinson**, Walker & Pells Lake Association
Director, **Mike Greenfield**, Mary Lake Association
Director, **Bruce Howlett**, Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association
Director, **John Kenny**, Lake of Bays Association
Director, **Dan Kerr**, Mary Lake Association

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PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENTS:

- **Town of Huntsville Election Candidates' Responses to HLC's Questionnaire (unedited)**

If for any reason you are unable to open the attachments, please contact hlc@vianet.ca for a hard copy or go to our website at www.huntsvillelakescouncil.com where they will be posted as of November 1st. A copy will also be at the Huntsville Public Library.

Director, **Dan McKeon**, Peninsula Lake Association

Director, **Jeanne O'Neill**, Harp Lake Association

Director, **Barb Stronach**, Fairy Lake Association

Director, **Yuri Zadoroznyj**, Bittern Lake Association

Director, **Rob Zingel**, Fairy Lake Association

Co-Chairs' Message...con't.

Others also assisting our Board Committees are: **Mike Pearson** of Chub Lake Association, **Heather McLean** of Walker and Pells Association and **Don Baker** of Huntsville. Our various committees are already hard at work on many issues. Check out HLC's website at www.huntsvillelakescouncil.com for board meeting dates and locations (meetings are open to all) and what's new at HLC.

Bill Somers is currently updating HLC's Contact List for redistribution. Please send any changes in your executive over the past summer to Bill at hlc@vianet.ca. We also welcome your associations' newsletters and, with your permission, will gladly distribute them to our membership via e-mail and/or link them to our website. Please contact us if you wish to do so.

HLC once again held a fundraising barbeque at Robinson's Independent Grocers on June 23, 24 and 25. Thanks to Bill Somers and Bruce Howlett for organizing this successful event. On July 27th, Bill and Dianne Somers hosted a delicious barbeque dinner and pleasant evening social for HLC members and guests at their home. Thanks to all those who worked hard on both these events.

Keep an eye on the Huntsville Forester, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, for HLC's articles on current issues of importance to waterfront property owners. HLC sent out a questionnaire to all candidates running for the various posts in Huntsville in the election on November 13th. It is hoped that the Forester will print the responses we received in their entirety on November 1st. They will also be posted to HLC's website on the same date and are included as an attachment to this newsletter for your convenience.

Do take the time to read and develop an informed opinion on the candidates of your choice. Please make sure you vote! Some will, hopefully, be voting earlier by mail. Unfortunately, only 220 seasonal residents and 119 with local mailing addresses chose this option. Thanks to Bill Somers for his work in promoting the importance of the mail-in vote.

We continue to assist potential new lake associations and groups in Huntsville and the surrounding areas. Bill Somers and Mary McCulley attended a meeting of the new Magnetewan River Watershed Association to provide this group with their insight and experiences in setting up the HLC.

Several lakes in HLC's area (Mary, Fox, Peninsula, Buck, possibly others) have experienced higher than normal water levels this summer under the new Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan guidelines. If your lake association wishes to have any concerns noted in this regard, please contact HLC at hlc@vianet.ca.

Mary Lake and Lake Waseosa have completed their lake plans. Fox Lake has recently incorporated. Both Lake Waseosa and Fox Lake have acquired Directors' and Officers' insurance. Stormwater contamination from nearby parking lots into Fairy Lake has been confirmed through summer research supported by the Muskoka Watershed Council and Town.

FOCA's Summer 2006 Lake Stewardship Newsletter contained many interesting and informative articles for lake associations. If your association did not receive it, you can obtain a copy by contacting Barb Stronach at info@foca.on.ca.

WRAFT/CAPTR (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation/Coalition After Property Tax Reform) has lobbied hard for property assessment reform in Ontario. 150,000 properties, of which 2/3 were waterfront owners, received assessments of 30% higher this year. The provincial government has now agreed to a two year moratorium on tax assessments while the system can be examined. WRAFT's AGM will be held on November 11th following the FOCA AGM at the York Reception Centre, 1100 Millwood Road, Toronto. The meeting will include a review of activities and plans for the months ahead and an address on the politics of property tax reform by property tax consultant, Peter Tomlinson, a well-known economic and property tax consultant. For more information on the WRAFT/CAPTR movement, go to www.wraft.com or www.captr.org.

Winter will soon be upon us. HLC hopes you enjoy the holiday festivities and the seasonal changes of this beautiful area. Keep in touch!

Sincerely,
Co-chairs,
Mary McCulley and Elaine Jackson
Huntsville Lakes Council
Ph. 705-789-2881 and 705-789-2831
e-mail: hlc@vianet.ca

Dark Skies Lighting: a How-to

By Mary McCulley, Director

Ah, the beauty of a dark sky full of stars! In addition, there is growing scientific evidence that darkness is a biological imperative for all living organisms and the proliferation of night lighting is harming plants, birds, mammals, fish and insects.

Sensible exterior lighting techniques can reduce the amount of light that trespasses from the area it is meant to

illuminate, helping to ensure a dark sky, yet maintaining the reason for the lights in the first place. Start by replacing any bulb over 60 watts with a 25 (or lower) watt bulb. A dimmer switch will achieve the same results and allows an increase in light when needed in special locations. If you are planning a major renovation or construction project, a lighting specialist can save you a lot of time and expense, and will ensure that the job is done correctly. You won't need a professional to pick out replacement light fixtures for the exterior of your home or cottage as packaging will state if it is 'dark-sky friendly'. Make sure that light sources point downwards and are housed in a fixture that covers the light itself. (You will note the term 'full cut-off' or 'partial cut-off'. Full cut-off means that no light is emitted above the horizontal. These are actually safer to use as they produce very little glare that can dazzle the eye and reduce the ability to see in darker areas. There will be enough 'forward throw' to illuminate adequately an area beyond that just below the fixture.) A light shade can turn a standard barn light into one with no up-light yet provide wide area coverage. Floodlights should have top and side shielding and should be pointed at least 45 degrees below horizontal. Recessed pot lights built right in to the eaves or canopy of a building are naturally dark-sky friendly as they point down. Make sure though that they are of low wattage. Replacing dusk-to-dawn security lights with a motion detector presents problems as wildlife can set these off. If you live on the water, aim lights away from the water and neighbouring properties. To replace boat dock lighting, there are new technologies for solar lighting, or reflector tape can be used.

Summarized from the September 6, 2006 issue of the *Forester*.

Policy Committee Report:

By Mary McCulley, Director

At our AGM, new members joined the committee. Our first meeting as a group was held on October 16th to divide members into subcommittees. One will deal with the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law, a second with new zoning applications relevant to lakes and the third with other issues relevant to lakes. Mary McCulley will remain as overall chair of the committee.

Review of the Comprehensive Zoning By-law will be looked at by Mary (chair), Don Baker and Mike Pearson. It is hoped that this subcommittee will be helped by lake residents with an interest in this area. The By-law is not expected to be out for review until next year.

Mary will continue to look after reviewing new development applications coming before Council.

Mary will chair the subcommittee looking at other issues. The areas we are currently dealing with were divided up:

- candidates questionnaire: Mike Greenfield, Mary and Elaine Jackson.
 - KWH – Don Baker, Mary
 - Deer Lake Trailer Park – Mary
 - Sound-Sorb – Elaine
 - flow chart for lakes tackling development applications – Elaine, Mary, Mike G. and Mike Pearson
- Members will involve themselves depending on their time and interest as other issues arise.

Council approved Huntsville's new Official Plan on September 11th (including many of the changes suggested by HLC in its final submission dealing with the July 16th draft of the O.P.) It has recently been passed by District but work on the Comprehensive Zoning By-law is not expected to begin

until the New Year.

There have been 15 applications for new development received since the last newsletter and communication made with the presidents of the various lakes affected. So far, none has asked for our support on contentious applications. (Most of the applications were acceptable to the lake associations.)

OMB REPORTS:

Peninsula Lake Quarry Hearing Resumed This Summer

By Dan McKeon, Director

To date, no decision has been made.

Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association

By Bruce Howlett, Director

Background:

A waterfront resident made an application in 2003 to the Town of Huntsville to sever three lots from the existing property of 11.75 acres. The property is a steep rocky hillside.

The Lake Waseosa Ratepayers Association opposed the severance for a number of reasons.

1. For over 20 years, Lake Waseosa was classified at capacity and no further development allowed, by the District of Muskoka. In 2005, the District of Muskoka, in its Lake System Health Program, reclassified Lake Waseosa as moderately sensitive and over threshold relative to phosphorous levels.
2. The property in question is not conducive to development as the virgin soils are very shallow over the bedrock.

3. The proposed septic system with imported soils has not been proven to retain phosphorous in actual field applications for an extended period of time.

In December 2005, Huntsville's Town Council voted against permitting the severance. Subsequently, the applicant appealed the Town's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. A preliminary hearing was held on June 6, 2006 which identified parties in the case and participants.

The OMB hearing will be held on November 22, 2006 in the Council Chambers of the Town of Huntsville.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL DUES?

Huntsville Lakes Council appreciates your continuing support through your membership. If you have not yet paid this year's dues or joined our organization, you may do so by sending a cheque for \$25. to Huntsville Lakes Council for July 2006 to June 2007 membership.

*Mail to:
Huntsville Lakes Council
Box 5411
Huntsville, ON P1H 2K7*

Thank you.

This newsletter is prepared by the Huntsville Lakes Council for its members and supporters. If you would like to comment on this newsletter or contribute an article or post an event in upcoming additions, please contact hlc@vianet.ca.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Huntsville Lakes Council is an association of Huntsville and area lakes whose purpose is:

- *to identify & provide a single strong voice to lobby for issues held in common among the lakes*
- *to facilitate lake plan development*
 - *to provide education on issues involving lakes & the watershed*
 - *to promote stewardship*

If you have any questions about the Huntsville Lakes Council, please e-mail them to hlc@vianet.ca.

- *Are you part of a group that is trying to form a new lake association or do you know of another lake group that is trying to do this?*
- *Is your existing lake association considering incorporating but not sure if it wants to do this or how to start the process?*
- *Does your lake want to start a lake plan but not know how or where to begin?*

Huntsville Lakes Council has developed guideline documents that can help you with the above challenges. Just contact us at hlc@vianet.ca for assistance or check out our website at www.huntsvillelakescouncil.com for more information.

Documents available:

- How to Form a Lake Association
- Flowchart to Incorporate a Not-for-profit Organization
- Lake Plan Template/Manual (LPT/M)