

Fourteen Island – Mink Lake Association

Autumn 2005 Newsletter

Greetings from your 2005-2006 Executive

At the annual meeting on July 31, the following were elected as the executive to the Lake Association:



From left to right: Tom Bryant, Vice President; Rod Harris-Lowe, Treasurer; Anne Tucker, Past President; Gord Rodgers, President; Elaine St. John, Secretary; David Babcock, Lake Steward

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Message from the President

I am really pleased to be a part of the association, and want to say thank you to those who felt I would make a good president. I have recently started to conduct lake planning as a part of my consulting business, so I am becoming more and more aware of the types of concerns that lake associations are dealing with, and some of the ways that these concerns can be tackled. What you quickly find out is that people on lakes across the province deal with a lot of similar issues – the things that come out when you talk to your neighbours here at 14 Island-Mink Lakes, or at our general meetings. When your executive got together recently, we thought it might be useful to get a regular newsletter going, and in this, our first issue, ask you what you think are the most important issues for the lake association to look into on your behalf. So you'll find a short survey attached which includes that question.

I hope that we can open some communication lines with this newsletter, and would love to hear your thoughts on it – so please send them along - good and bad!

Gord

Lake Association Fees

The lake association has had an annual fee of \$20.00 per family, but in the past two years, the fees have been waived because it was felt there was money in the bank, and that there were not enough expenses to justify collecting additional fees. At this year's general meeting it was decided that the annual membership fee would be reinstated, and here are the details:

- Annual fee per family: \$25.00
- Due NOW, to cover 2005/2006. Special offer: 2 years for one annual fee
- Cheques are to be made out to "Fourteen Island Lake Property Owners Association" and mailed to:

Treasurer
14 Island Lake Property Owners Association
Box 105, Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0

- Membership Application/Renewal form at back of newsletter

Why should you pay your fees?

We are going to start working on more and more issues on your behalf, and to do so we'll need some additional money in the bank. A small fee of \$25 gives you a voice and makes you a partner in what the association can do to keep our lake a good, healthy and fun place to live. Once we have done a bit of research on the subject, we may want to propose doing a lake plan; having some money in the bank will be important to get this done. So, I hope you will see your way clear to sending in your annual fee as soon as possible. Thank you.

Rules for Development on our Lake

We are lucky to be living on a lake where people who visit often comment on the fact that our lake looks to be "undeveloped." The reason has been that most property owners have respected the shoreline in the past, and not overdeveloped or cleared more trees than absolutely necessary. In addition, there are legal rules, administered by the Township, the Conservation Authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Federal Government that govern what can and can't be done when you want to develop – for a house, a shed, a dock, or any other type of improvement to your property. Also, in areas that are developed by Plan of Subdivision, the Township applies restrictions specific to that subdivision (for example, the Deer Park subdivision (Northeast end of the lake) was developed in 1998 with a requirement that trees and soil are not to be removed within approximately 40 meters of the shoreline).

In today's world, the township bylaws are the first and primary set of rules that govern development. They are set up so that the level and type of development will be environmentally sound, and in particular, protect the shoreline and water quality of the lake. After six years of working on it, the Township of South Frontenac passed a comprehensive zoning bylaw, amalgamating all the bylaws of the former townships. Although not perfect (what is these days), the new bylaw is a very good one if we want to see our lakes protected for the future.

(Continued page 3.)

Here are a few of the highlights that relate to developing properties on a lake:

- Any severance or subdivision of land requires a minimum of 300 ft. frontage per lot
- No buildings of any size can be built within 100 ft. (30 meters) of the shoreline without a variance
- Although not specifically in the bylaw, the Township's official plan discourages any cutting of trees or removal of soil within 100 ft. of the shoreline
- Docks require the approval of the conservation authority. Generally, the conservation authority will approve floating or pole docks, but if you want to put cribs in to support your dock, it will be discouraged, and might need the approval of will get approved by the township, while crib docks will need the approval of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

“Dock Talk”

What follows are a few tidbits of information that you might find interesting about the lake:

1. The Dam:

Due to constant tampering with the dam by property owners on 14 Island, Mink, and Spring Lakes, plus concerns with the Walleye fisheries a meeting was held in 1981 to establish a water level for 14 Island Lake. The Ministry of Natural Resources set the summer time level. Dave Babcock's job is to ensure that the dam is not tampered with, replace the boards when necessary, keep the spill way clear of debris and any other general maintenance. In the fall (usually Thanksgiving Weekend) one or sometimes two boards are removed depending on the water level to lower the lake level. These boards are then put back in the dam before freeze up. The purpose of this is to clean the silt off of the rocks in the fish spawning areas to improve the spawn the following year. Due to the hot dry summer this year the lake level is already well below normal and removing additional boards will not be necessary.

2. Buoys on the lake:

You will notice as you travel on the lake that many of the rocks on the lake have been marked by buoys, and last year, the old buoys were replaced by new, larger, green ones. We have the Storms family to thank for putting these buoys out on the lake and Dave Babcock for bringing them in at Thanksgiving. And, while the Storms do their best to mark as many of the dangerous rocks as possible, of course you should know that there are probably other unmarked rocks hidden under the surface that you need to be careful of. It's the nature of our eastern Ontario lakes that we have lots of shoals left behind after the glaciers scraped the surface of the earth more than 10,000 years ago – so be careful out there!

3. Zebra Mussels:

Yes, we have them! The numbers have increased pretty dramatically over the past three years, and they have spread across the lake pretty quickly as well. Unfortunately, there isn't much we can do to get rid of the little devils, but we need to do our part to make sure we aren't spreading them to other lakes. So – please make sure you are diligent about

- Inspecting your boat and trailer for visible mussels and removing them;
- getting them off your boat and trailer by pressure washing (or hot water washing) before you go into another lake;
- emptying your bilge, live well, and transom well;
- emptying your bait buckets on land (never dump bait buckets into the lake!);
- if at all possible, dry your boat for at least 5 days before putting it into another body of water – they live that long out of the water!

4. Water Quality this Summer

This summer seemed to bring a lot of weed growth and algae to the lake that hasn't been seen in the past. What's going on?

There are probably a few things contributing to this. First, it was a really warm summer without a lot of rain. This would give pretty good conditions for the weeds and algae to grow – the surface of the water got warm early and stayed warm all summer. Second, the zebra mussels contribute by eating the phytoplankton, and cause the clarity of the water to improve. Clearer water lets light penetrate further into the lake, and the weeds get more sunlight to let them grow. Although there isn't any specific evidence to suggest it, the third factor may be increased nutrients into the lake from septic systems and farm runoff. Although we do have some water quality information on our lake, this last factor is hard to dismiss or confirm unless we do a really comprehensive water quality study – maybe in the future?

5. Boat Operator Cards

If you haven't done the test and received your boat operator card yet, you might want to check these web sites: www.tc.gc.ca/BoatingSafety; and www.BoaterOperator.com. They explain when you are required to have a boat operator card, and provide on line instruction and on line testing.

Newsletter Feedback and How to Reach Us

Any comments on the newsletter? Please let us know and we'll use your suggestions for the next one, scheduled for Spring of 2006. Send comments via email to any of the executive members:

Gord Rodgers: gord.rodgers@sympatico.ca
374-3521

Tom Bryant: bryant48@sympatico.ca
374-1473 or 389-9866

Rod Harris-Lowe: harrislowe-r@rmc.ca
374-3641

Elaine St. John: elaine13@granite.anikast.ca
374-1276

David Babcock: babcock-d@rmc.ca
372-1474

Anne Tucker: ethela@sympatico.ca
613-966-7153

Annual Meeting 2006

Sunday, August 6 2:00 pm

Anne Tucker's Cottage

Who Are Your New Executive?

Gord Rodgers, President: Gord and his wife, Barb have owned a property at the northeast end of the lake since 2001, and moved here permanently in 2004 from Newmarket, Ontario. You might know them by their three golden retrievers. Gord took an early retirement from the Ministry of Natural Resources seven years ago, and has been involved in his own small business since then, as an environmental consultant.
1141 Wood Duck Lane, Hartington K0H 1W0

Tom Bryant, Vice President: Tom and his wife, Judie built their cottage on the south west side of the lake in 1989 and spend from April to October each year at the lake. Tom is a retired secondary school teacher who resides in Kingston.
894 Atwood Place, Kingston, K7P 1N9

Rod Harris-Lowe, Treasurer: Rod has been a full-time resident on the north west side of the lake since he retired in 1995. Rod was named Professor Emeritus of Physics (RMC) after he retired. He still works part time as the Executive Secretary of the faculty association at RMC.
1119 Deer Park Drive, Hartington, K0H 1W0

Elaine St.John, Secretary: Elaine and her husband, Stuart have owned property on the south west end of the lake since 1998, and moved here permanently in 2001 from Stouffville, Ontario, after retiring from IBM Canada.
3037 Old Fourteen Island Lane, Hartington K0H 1W0

David Babcock, Lake Steward: Dave has been cottaging on the north west side of the lake for the past 42 years. He and his father have been looking after the dam for the past 24 years. Dave has been a Mechanical Engineering Technician-Instructor at RMC for the past 18 years. He resides in Harrowsmith.
3685 Yarker Road, Harrowsmith, K0H 1V0

Anne Tucker, Past President: Anne bought her property in 1989 after lining up from 11:00 pm. until 10:00 am the next morning. They were second in line and camped out all night. She opens up in April and closes around the end of October. She tries to commute in the summer as she works 2-3 days per week in an upscale boutique in Belleville, (retail sales) and has been doing this for 12 years. She has 3 children, Jeff, Matt and Regan and in November she will become a grandmother.
350 Front Street, Apt. 302, Belleville, K8N 5M5

SURVEY of PROPERTY OWNERS

Please take a few minutes and complete the following short survey. If we are to be a relevant organization, we need your feedback and suggestions. Send your completed surveys via email to elaine13@granite.anikast.ca or via snail mail to: Fourteen Island Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 105, Hartington, Ontario K0H 1W0

1. What are the three matters you would like your lake association to tackle in the next 3 years?

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____

2. What background, skills, or knowledge might you be able to offer to the association? We are trying to find people we might be able to call on occasionally who might be: engineers, biologists, lawyers, planners, desktop publishers, people knowledgeable about the local area's history, or the fish and wildlife around the lake.

3. Mink Lake's name. On Government of Canada topographical maps and the South Frontenac Townships maps it is actually Sigsworth Lake. Our association name is legally established as Fourteen Island Lake Property Owners Association. Do you have any objection to us referring to ourselves as the Fourteen Island - Sigsworth Lakes Association versus Fourteen Island - Mink Lake Association?

No objection _____ Yes objection _____ Comments

Membership Application/Renewal

Our annual fees are from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 so current years dues would be appreciated now.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL BELOW and make any corrections necessary so we can ensure you are receiving our newsletters. Also check your e-mail address or add as appropriate.

NAME AND ADDRESS

Telephone Number (____)_____

E-mail _____

Preferred method of receiving future newsletters:

E-mail Yes _____

Canada Post Yes _____

Enclosed is \$25. Cheque for 2005/2006 made payable to "Fourteen Island Lake Property Owners Association"

**Please mail to:
Fourteen Island Lake Property Owners Association
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 105
Hartington, Ontario
K0H 1W0**