

# Loon Call 2012



LITTLE  
LAKE  
JOSEPH  
ASSOCIATION



Little Lake Joseph Association  
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# Loon Call 2012

LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH ASSOCIATION



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ann MacDiarmid

It is a true honour to be serving the Little Lake Joseph Association as your president. I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of Ken Langmuir, George Clendenan, Walter McCormick and Dirk Soutendijk – all of whom have served as leaders of the Little Lake Joseph Association for several years, helping to make our lake and our association what it is today.

Since taking office in January of 2012, I can report that your Association has been very busy working with the Township of Seguin and other lake associations on a number of initiatives.

- I attended a Council meeting in November to ensure that all construction on Little Lake Joseph conforms to the existing Seguin By Laws and that the Township enforces those By Laws consistently.
- I have been attending a newly formed Safer and Quieter Boating Committee with several other lake associations to build broad scale awareness and respect for safe and quiet boating practices throughout Muskoka. This committee originated in opposition to the annual Poker Run speed boat race that takes place on Lakes Joseph, Rosseau and Muskoka at speeds of up to 100 km/hour. Luckily, there is no part of Little Lake Joseph that allows the Poker Run enough open water to visit us!

- I have been attending meetings with representatives of the Muskoka Lakes Association to explore ways that we and other lake associations can co-operate to mutual benefit with the MLA.
- Your Association helped the Seguin Fire Chief and his team build a database of emergency contact numbers for our membership in the event that you need to be contacted quickly when not in residence in Seguin.
- Your Association is working hard to save the Muskoka Lakes Association Marine Team/Patrol which – at the time of writing of the Loon Call – was at risk of being dissolved. We believe that the Marine Team plays a vital role in keeping our lakes safe and in educating everyone about boating and environmental issues.
- Your Association is co-operating with the Township of Seguin's Office of Boating Safety to locate speed limit signs strategically throughout Little Lake Joseph to help enforce the 10 kph speed limit within 30 metres of all shores.

The Little Lake Joseph Association's lifeblood is its members and their engagement in the stewardship of our precious lake. I encourage everyone to join the Association, attend the Picnic on Saturday July 21st at the Carl

Dare cottage and the Annual General Meeting on Sunday August 5, 2012 at the McCormick cottage. We are delighted to have received 9 positive responses to our request for volunteers who want to "get involved" in the Association.

Please raise issues and concerns with any of the Little Lake Joseph Directors. There are many roles for people who want to get involved in specific activities or in a governance role. Please contact any one of us.

I want to say a very special thank you to three people who have made Little Lake Joseph a very special place to be. Dirk Soutendijk has served as President of the LLJA for 7 years during which time the Association incorporated, wrote its first by laws, elected and re-elected Mayor David Conn for a total of a 12 year term of office. Margie McCormick who served the LLJA as recording secretary for 7 years is stepping down from that post. Our records are professional and complete thanks to Margie's diligence. And on a more social, but equally important note, Janna Tatham has organized and chaired the LLJA picnic for 6 years making it the highlight of many Little Lake Jo families' summers.

Dirk, Margie and Janna – you are all very tough acts to follow. You have set very high standards. Thank you for all that you have done to make Little Lake Joseph so very special. 🐾

# A Special Association For A Very Special Lake

Dirk Soutendijk – Past President of LLJA

Little Lake Joseph is unique in several important aspects. While we connect to Lake Joseph, our water flows south into that lake. As a result, no water impurities from Lake Joseph enter our Lake. Also, since we area dead-end lake, we are not a passageway to any other lake and get very little boat traffic compared to other parts of the Muskoka Lakes. Finally, we were settled relatively recently. Except for a few descendants of original settlers, and at least one resident from Toronto, there was no real development until after WWII. As a result, most residents have proper septic systems with reasonable set backs from the water's edge. Most importantly, we have no commercial development. Through the work of our very special association, the Seguin Official Plan prohibits any future commercial development on Little Lake Joseph.

Our Association can now boast almost 100% of our lake residents as members and this is, indeed,

unique. I know of no other lake association that can boast of a publication of the quality of our Loon Call. Our annual picnic is consistently well attended.

The Association's Board is active with members spending a lot of time making sure zoning and Official Plan rules are adhered to. The Board participates in Township variance decisions and has a close working relationship with the Township. Our Association is now incorporated so that it can formally enter into legal proceedings and purchase liability insurance. Our very special lake is looked after by a special Association.

We encourage all of our neighbours to work with our Board to continue to keep our Little Lake Joseph as nice as it is. Working with or on this Board is a wonderfully satisfying experience and I encourage all to participate. It has been an honour to serve as the President of this Association for the past 7 years.



## In Memoriam Don Fleming



Little Lake Joseph lost a strong advocate and wonderful friend with the death of Don Fleming, on June 22, 2011 after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Don's contributions to Little Lake Joseph were many and immense. Among other things and with other advocates, Don helped to obtain the designation of "a small lake" for Little Lake Joseph, thereby prohibiting commercial development anywhere on Little Lake Joseph. Don gave generously of his time, knowledge and expertise to help protect our lake for all to enjoy.

Don adored being at his cottage at the northern tip of Little Lake Joseph where his family will continue to gather to honour his memory. Our sympathy goes out to Don's wife, Diane, and their four children, Michael (Jen), Sean, Ryan and Lindsay and grandchildren Grace and Paige.

# Lights Out!!

## Respect and enjoy the Night Skies!!

**PLEASE** – keep all exterior lighting OFF unless you are expecting people to arrive at your dock and NEVER leave your exterior lights on when you are not in residence.

The Muskoka night skies are a precious resource to be enjoyed by all. Leaving your lights on when they are not needed is creating light pollution that inhibits the enjoyment by your neighbours.

## Time for “Lights Out” at Little Lake Joseph!!

# 2012 Little Lake Joe Association Picnic

**When:** Saturday, July 21st, 2012 - 12 noon

**Where:** Carl Dare's cottage at the northern most point in Little Lake Joseph (17 Jean Marie Road – if coming by car)

*Please join the fun and see your neighbours*

*Volunteers needed for face painting, games and picnic flyer dock drop*

*Please contact Susan Higgins  
([susan\\_higgins@hotmail.com](mailto:susan_higgins@hotmail.com))*

*or Peter Mackie  
([Peter.Mackie17@yahoo.com](mailto:Peter.Mackie17@yahoo.com)) if you can help*

Many thanks to Janna Tatham who has organized and run the Little Lake Joe Association Picnic for the last 7 years! Janna has done a fabulous job with husband Bill behind the grill exhibiting his barbequing talents. Over the years, Michael, Janine and Colin Tatham have helped with the picnic flyer dock drop, as well as the games and face painting. Fortunately they have passed on their face painting skills to Emma Orcutt. The Tathams have continued the tradition of the Little Lake Joe Association picnic begun by the McCormick family and their efforts have made the picnic a highlight of every family's summer. We are also grateful to the Dare family for hosting this terrific event every summer for as long as we can remember. 🐾

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## Little Lake Joe Should Be Safe For All Help Make It So

By Mark Johnstone



Cottagers have expressed their concerns about boating safety in Little Lake Joe. It's apparent that over the last 20 years, the evolution in watercraft has brought us faster 'jet skis' and more powerful boats, creating bigger wakes.

Whether we like it or not, as long as people are following the rules, they are free to have a great time enjoying their watercraft. Thankfully, most people are respectful of their neighbours, the shoreline and the environment. The only thing more frightening than having a boat barrelling towards you when out for a swim is the boat racing in towards your kids or grandkids while

you're watching from the dock.

It is probably not a coincidence that, over the same timeframe, Transport Canada has imposed additional regulations including: minimum age limits for driving boats over 10hp, boater licensing and new requirements to carry safety equipment on all boats. Their published rationale, for these incursions on our liberty, is to reduce fatalities and accidents. If you check out their website under marine safety (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/menu.htm>), it can be a bit overwhelming. It is chock full of rules and regulations. After searching for a while, my takeaways were: use a pfd (life jacket) all of the time, don't drink and boat, be aware, be considerate and know the rules.

Shoreline speed is always a concern. From here to the Pacific, provinces restrict speed to 10 km/h within 30 m (98' 5") of shore on all inland waters, so it is not just a Muskoka issue. It is important

# Little Lake Joe Should Be Safe For All

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to share the water with swimmers, wildlife, and other boaters and to respect the shoreline and the people relaxing at the water's edge. So please err on the cautious side and slow right down when approaching the shore.

Let's all work together to make Little Lake Joseph the safest and most caring part of the Muskoka system. If you care, you can make it happen. Happy boating.

## Safer And Quieter Boating – For All To Enjoy

Over the past 6 months, responding to boating concerns expressed by members of the lake community, a group of representatives from Lakes Joseph, Rosseau, Little Joseph and the Muskoka Lakes Association have been meeting to address the issues. Overall, the group wants to make the Muskoka lakes safer and quieter for all so that we can ensure

the sustainable enjoyment of our treasured and shared resource.

Working together, this Committee has met with local municipalities, the OPP, key community thought leaders and businesses to solicit attitudinal and financial support for an awareness campaign for the next 3 years. The goals are fourfold.

To make the Muskoka Lakes:

- Safe for everyone who wants to use the lake every day; safe for swimmers and all types of motorized and human-powered craft; high speed, oversized craft and excessive noise increase risk.
- Quiet enough so that everyone can enjoy nature's sounds, speak at normal voice levels and not be startled or awakened by intrusive noises.

- Sustainable environmentally so that we can share this resource with future generations. Large wakes erode shorelines; loud noises disrupt wildlife and emissions damage the environment.
- Have all parts of the Muskoka community (residents, businesses and visitors) share in the responsibility of keeping our lakes safe, quiet and sustainable by talking to their neighbours and doing their best to reinforce safety and courtesy as part of our Muskoka culture.

Please watch for more information about the Safer and Quieter Boating Committee in the coming months. If you are interested in becoming involved, please email Frances Carmichael at [fcarmichael@elink.iol.ei](mailto:fcarmichael@elink.iol.ei). 

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## Water Quality Summer 2011

By Dirk Soutendijk

Denis Jean-Marie, Mark Johnstone and I continued to sample Little Lake Joseph throughout the summer of 2011 in accordance with the MLA water quality program. The MLA samples some 180 sites in 50 sampling areas in Muskoka and Seguin Townships.

The water quality in Little Lake Joe continues to be excellent and is comparable to water quality found in the Footes Bay, Gordon Bay and Hamer Bay areas.

In brief, our average Secchi Disc reading (the depth at which an object is still seen) is 5.8 meters and this level of clarity is almost identical to that in Footes, Gordon and Hamer Bays. The amount of phosphorous in our water is also pretty low and comparable to that of the three bays noted.

In 2011, calcium content was measured for the first time. Calcium is necessary to support fish and other algae eaters. A reasonable amount of calcium, say 4 or 5 mg/l, will support algae eaters and, therefore, result in less algae and aquatic plants in the lake. Our number (3.72) is very slightly below those of the compared bays (4.07, 4.02 & 4.02) but all are good levels. It should be noted that it takes a calcium level of 12 for zebra mussels to survive, so we don't want and we don't have that high a number.

Our two near shore bacteria testing sites are located in very densely built areas and we did show slightly higher levels than the bays compared. Our total bacteria number is 38 cfu/100ml while the numbers for Gordon and Hamer Bays are only 3. I doubt that our testing sites and/or testing procedures are

comparable. In any event, even these numbers are quite good and indicate water that is very usable although not drinkable.

Most important are the e-coli numbers as these are the bacteria that can be harmful. Our number is 5 cfu/100ml versus only 1 cfu/100ml for Gordon and Hamer bays and, again, I wonder how comparable our numbers are. Having said that, our number is well below the "maximum" set by the MLA which is 10 and the Ontario maximum number, which is 100.

We will continue testing our waters this year and thereafter to set a base line for our water quality against which to measure possible future "upset conditions". For the time being, I think it's fair to say that Little Lake Joseph water quality is excellent. 

# Our Dear Sweet Little Pepper

(1991 - 2006)

This October it will be six years since we lost our dear sweet little Pepper. She was a miniature schnauzer and the runt of the litter. In our house, however, she was the Queen. I used to joke that she was the glue that kept the family together. Before Pepper arrived, I remember going to our kids' summer camp on visitors' day. I used to laugh as I saw campers running towards the parents and the family dog. Invariably, you saw them ignore the parents and hug and kiss the pooch. After Pepper arrived, I could easily understand why this was the case. Our children could argue among themselves and be angry with us. Nobody could ever be upset with Pepper.

There can be no doubt that Pepper was a cottage dog. It was at the cottage that she was truly in her element. She could tell when we were getting close to the cottage. As we turned off Peninsula Road onto Little Joe Road, she would start to jump around and bark obviously recognizing the terrain. As soon as the car door opened out she jumped anxious to breathe in some of that great Muskoka air.

But her absolute favourite activity by far was fishing. She would sit patiently beside me on the dock waiting for me to catch that fish. And as soon as the fish emerged from the water she would go berserk leaping up and down, barking and jumping at the fish, clearly forgetting that dogs don't usually eat fish. We figured that maybe it was her hunting instinct that is supposed to be ingrained in the schnauzer breed that triggered such a wild response. So excited would she get at the sight of a fish and so high would she jump that on a number of occasions she accidentally jumped off the dock ending up in the lake. If we were not fast enough to grab her by the collar to pull her out, she would swim under the dock and climb up onto the rocks in the crib. She was usually so far under we could not reach her and had to resort

to her favourite snack, a chunk of beef salami, to lure her out. On one occasion I recall that even that did not do the trick and we had to take a power saw to the planks in the dock to rescue her. Just seeing us walk to the boathouse would get her excited and in case we had activities other than fishing on our mind she would run to where we kept the fishing rods, take one of the rod's handles in her mouth and shake it as if to say, "here it is - let's do it." And she became an avid boater. Resplendent

for the love we bestow on them. It was a bright, sunny fall morning and although she had difficulty walking I let Pepper out into our backyard in the city. After a few minutes I heard a splash and ran out to see she had fallen into the pond. I pulled her out but her eyes were closed and her body was completely limp. Instinctively I put my mouth over her snout and began to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation. Within a minute she began to move. I couldn't believe I had brought her back. We rushed her to the vet where they were waiting with everything from an IV line to a heating blanket.

The vet told us that given her age and condition we would probably have to make a very hard decision. She stayed at the animal hospital overnight and when we went to see her the next morning we thought a miracle had happened. She was full of life and was jumping all over us as soon as we walked in. We knew we had our Pepper back but we just didn't know for how long. About a week later on a Saturday morning, my wife, Gayle, woke me and asked me to come downstairs. There was our little Pepper lying on the kitchen floor as she often did when she was sleeping. Our daughters had already left home and only our son was living with us. The hardest part was going to our son's bedroom to give him the bad news. She had been there for more than half of his life. She was thoughtful to the very end. She left us on a Saturday morning when we were all home. She saved us from having to make that very hard decision. And it was a bright, sunny October day.

We took her straight up to Little Lake Joe and laid her to rest surrounded by the beautiful fall colours. She gave us 15 wonderful years and from where she lies, overlooking Little Lake Joe and our boathouse, she can see the fish as we pull them out of the lake. 🐟



*Pepper Kwinter at the Helm*

in her doggie life jacket she would be the first one in the boat. As soon as she heard the engine slow down she knew we were getting close to shore. She would run to the front of the boat and jump up with her front legs on the bow checking out how close we were to the shore ready to leap onto the dock.

As our kids grew into teenagers and adults Pepper of course went from puppyhood to all too fast old age. As anyone who has ever owned a dog knows, their life spans are far too short

# June 6th, 1944, Bill McCormick Liberated Creully, France and is Honoured 67 Years Later

By Margaret McCormick

On Tuesday, June 7th, 2011 the citizens of Creully, a small town seven kilometers from Juno Beach, honoured Bill McCormick for the role he played in the D-Day invasion. He became an honorary citizen of Creully and the town square was named "Place Lieutenant McCormick Char Cataraqui." A plaque honouring Lt. McCormick's Regiment, The First Hussars, was also mounted in the square.

Sixty-seven years earlier, June 6th, 1944 a young boy, Rene Lemars, lay in bed listening to the guns booming and praying that the German occupation of their town would soon come to an end. Rene's father and other men in the town had been ordered to report to the train station at 5:00p.m. that evening. They were to be transported to a forced work camp in Germany. Rene feared he would never see his father again.

Lt. McCormick's arrival in Creully was the answer to the young boy's prayers. Under German fire Lt. McCormick's three tanks, Cataraqui, Conquest and Conqueror cut a path for allied infantry to follow. McCormick attacked the German positions with machinegun fire and put a shell through the church steeple to dislodge any snipers.

Rene, age nine, left the safety of his basement hiding place to witness the exchange of gunfire and the subsequent German retreat. The occupation of Creully was over. People filled the streets as news of the Allied victory spread. Among cheers of joy and celebration, Rene was hoisted by his father onto a tank named Cataraqui. Rene handed the young tank commander a bottle of their best wine. McCormick accepted the bottle of wine and moved on taking his three tanks further inland than any seaborne Allied force on D-Day.

On June 11th, five days after the Creully victory, McCormick engaged the enemy again in a wheat field at Le Mesnil-Patry. The German Panzer tanks were well camouflaged and far superior to the Canadian-made Shermans in ar-

mament, range and fire power. When McCormick moved into battle position he and his men saw nothing but the burning tanks of B Squadron. When the order came to "Advance," no one moved. Finally, when volunteers were called for, McCormick and his men advanced into the battle field. At 24 years of age, McCormick lost his right leg but felt lucky because he knew he would be going home. Many of his fellow officers and his men were killed that day. The battle of Le Mesnil-Patry would later be recorded in the history books as the "darkest day" in the history of the Hussar Regiment.

The day Rene Lemars handed a bottle of wine to the Canadian tank commander and memorized the name of the tank, "Cataraqui", was the day Rene unconsciously chose his life's vocation. Rene is a World War II historian. When the Canadian Veterans returned to Normandy for the Fiftieth Anniversary of D-Day, Rene set about discovering the identity of the Cataraqui tank commander. By sheer coincidence, Bill McCormick was one of the returning Veterans. While neither could speak the other's language the events of June 6th, 1944 immediately drew Bill and Rene

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# June 6th, 1944, Bill McCormick Liberated Creully, France and is Honoured 67 Years Later

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together. They would correspond for the next seventeen years; comparing and sharing information about the war.

In November, 2010, Bill McCormick received an invitation from the Mayor of Creully requesting his presence for the commemoration of the town square. After months of planning, the First Hussars and Bill McCormick's family travelled to Normandy for the ceremony. In his commemorative speech, Rene Lemars, 76, forgave Bill for destroying the church steeple and shattering his grandmother's shop window with machinegun fire and presented Bill McCormick, 91, with a second bottle of wine.

Each year French people of all ages gather on Juno Beach and in their towns to remember the young soldiers who paid a heavy price for their freedom. It was a great privilege for the McCormick family to witness and be a part of the Remembrance Day services at Juno Beach, Creully and Le Mesnil-Patry last June. 🇫🇷

*Bill McCormick and his family have been cottagers on Little Lake Joseph since 1969. He and his family have been active in many aspects of the Little Lake Joseph Association since its founding in 1980. The McCormick family continues to host the LLJA Annual General Meeting on their boathouse at the north end of Little Lake Joseph. Bill recently celebrated in 92nd birthday. Margaret is Bill's daughter.*

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## The Facts about Your Electricity Bill

By Ian Davidson

Have you ever wondered about the mystery surrounding all those charges in your electricity bill and why you pay more for the same electricity at your cottage than your home? Let's try to answer some of this by looking at all the charges that make up your bill...

### Electricity Charges

The Electricity Charge is the price of the electricity you consume. You have options on how you purchase your electricity:

From the Utility: If you purchase your electricity from your utility, your electricity price is what they refer to as the "Regulated Price Plan" (RPP). RPP prices are set by the OEB (Ontario Energy Board - independent regulator) and can change every six months (1st May; 1st November) based on a forecast of the cost of electricity. Tiered pricing is being phased out with time-of-use (TOU) pricing and smart meters. TOU pricing is based on three tiers of pricing (cents/kWh) based on usage during the Off-Peak; Mid-Peak; On-Peak periods. Off-Peak is 1900-700 year-round. During the Summer, On-Peak is 1100-1700, and Mid-Peak is 700-1100 and 1700-1900, but it changes during the Winter.

The majority of customers in the province have a smart meter and have been transitioned to Time of Use (TOU) pricing. There are cases where people who have a smart reader have not been moved over from tier pricing to TOU pricing. It is just a matter of time until everyone converts to TOU pricing. Hydro One was non-committal when asked when 100% of the province would be converted.



# The Facts about Your Electricity Bill

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## From a Retailer:

Electricity retailers are private companies who provide a fixed electricity rate for up to five years. These retailers may offer a fixed price per kWh regardless of when or how much electricity is used. Some retailers also sell 'green electricity'. Retailers generally cater to consumers who want long-term electricity price protection. Evaluating whether to lock in your rate depends on your assessment of many factors including:

- The amount and time when you use most of your electricity (and if modify your time of use is an option)
- What is your risk tolerance and how much you feel rates are likely to increase in the future

You need to do your homework when comparing fixed electricity rates offered by energy retailers against the RPP rate charged by your local utility.

When purchasing from a retailer, the contract price is only the price of electricity, and all of the extra fees on your bill (such as delivery fees, admin, debt retirement, etc.) will generally be the same.

You might find that your bill actually increases immediately after switching to an electricity retailer – if your price is protected for up to 5 years the fixed rate may be higher compared to the RPP rate in the short term, but lower in the later years of your contract if compared rising variable rates under the RPP.

One item to be aware of is the Global Adjustment (formerly called Provincial Benefit). This is already included if you are buying from the utility as part of a RPP plan, but if you buy from an electricity retailer you will have to pay the Global Adjustment, in addition to the contract price offered by the retailer. This will be shown as a separate item on your bill. The adjustment represents the difference between regulated and contract prices for electricity paid to certain generators and the market prices they would have received had they not been subject to regulation or contracts. Technically it can be either a credit or a charge, but lately the Global Adjustment has been about 4 cents/kWh. More information, including the main electricity retailers currently providing hydro to Ontario can be found at: [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca)

## Delivery Charges:

The delivery charge can represent over 50% of your cottage electricity bill. This line of the bill covers both a fixed Customer Service Charge, as well as variable per kWh charges for Transmission Network, Connection and Distribution Charges for delivering electricity to your cottage through high & low voltage systems. Delivery charges are approved by the OEB and vary depending on the community and the Rate Classification (Residential, Seasonal, Farm, and Small Business).

It is true that the delivery charge for seasonal customers is nearly double that of residential owners. All customers with Hydro One pay the same amount for the electricity they use, however Hydro One charges differently for Delivery Charges based on the community and Rate Classification. Hydro One's rationale is that the cost of servicing and delivering electricity to seasonal properties is more expensive (they have farther to go for maintenance, service calls, and have lower revenues) and therefore seasonal customers should bear more of this expense.

It is possible to change your cottage property classification from 'Seasonal' to 'Residential' and according to Hydro One, this can reduce the Delivery Charges modestly (10-15%). To make this change you must request and submit a form from Hydro One, and satisfy criteria that include:

- Warrant that you only have one property as a year-round residence
- Live in this residence for at least four days of the week for eight months of the year and not reside anywhere else for more than three days a week during eight months of the year
- The address must appear on documents such as electric bill, driver's licence, credit card invoice, property tax bill, etc.
- Be eligible to vote in Provincial or Federal elections and be enumerated at the address.

## Debt Retirement Charges:

These charges are set by the Ontario Ministry of Finance and are used by the government to pay down the residual stranded debt of the former Ontario Hydro. The charges are based on consumption.

## Regulatory Charges:

Regulatory charges cover administration costs for regulators, costs incurred by local utilities to connect renewable generation, and funding for the Ministry of Energy to recover costs associated with funding its conservation and renewable energy programs, such as the final line item on your bill which is the OCEB credit, an automatic 10% rebate off consumers total electricity bill.

More than ever consumers are encouraged to consume more efficiently by shifting their demand to lower cost times of use, or through greater energy efficiency. Retail electricity suppliers may be a viable alternative for some, but you need to check the facts first. Delivery charges are in fact higher for seasonal cottage customers and you might be able to get some relief with Hydro One. 🙌

# We're Not Alone...

By Mark Johnstone

With last summer's good weather and busy schedule, time passed quickly and before long, the kids were heading back to school. But when the quieter autumn comes around, our family likes to get out in the woods with our Pudelpointer, Lily. Around Little Lake Joseph, we're lucky to have some uninhabited Crown land. So if you like to get out and explore the woods, you can avoid trespassing with some basic preparations and maps.

At certain times, the forest will seem very still. Combine that with the feeling of losing one's bearings and before long, visions of the Blair Witch Project can come to mind. It's not a good feeling, especially if you're from Blair Point! So if you do venture out, tell someone where you're going, bring some water, a compass and a phone or 'walkie talkie'. Many will remember an extensive search for a lost neighbour not too many years ago that thankfully ended well.

The stillness in the forest is an illusion though. It's often broken by the explosive launch of a Ruffed Grouse from a well-camouflaged forage spot, amongst the blackberry canes. Or a Bush Rabbit that will scream past at an impressive speed, or a Wild Turkey that will take off like a helicopter...yes they can actually fly quite well.

At Little Lake Joseph, we're blessed with a healthy ecosystem and the biodiversity that goes along with a clean environment. This past February Family Day, we caught 4 species of fish. In addition to the normal trout and ling, we also caught a small mouth and a rock bass. We released the bass quickly. One of the trout that we kept for the smoker, had a frog in its stomach. Frogs are a good environmental indicator.

After noticing a lack of bats around the cottage last year I sent out an informal survey to the other directors simply asking if they had noticed the low number of bats and what other wildlife people had seen. I can only speculate that the low bat population is a result of the white nose fungus

that is hitting some North American populations quite hard. Hopefully they will recuperate, as they say each little brown bat eats its own weight in mosquitoes each night. The response to the wildlife survey was good.

Many of us will have noticed a few families of geese around the lake. We're told they are not really indigenous to our cottage area, but with some nice grass to eat on lawns and golf courses they do quite well. Some people find them a messy nuisance, but on the bright side, they do seem to move on after the goslings arrive.

In addition to the geese, cottagers report seeing a variety of ducks, loons and mergansers. We also have a few terns and gulls. Kingfishers are fun to

watch while they fish along the shore.

The reintroduction of the turkey has been quite a success with sightings being a common occurrence in the area. There is a healthy white tail deer population and some reports of moose sightings came in as well, with one neighbour seeing a cow and calf moose just off Peninsula Road.

Snapping turtles, weasels, coyotes and bears round out the predators that are not uncommon around Little Lake Joseph. We are pretty sure that there may be the occasional fox and wolf around as well.

So if you do go out in the woods, do enjoy, tread lightly and remember... *you're not alone.* 🐾



*Lily, the Pudelpointer,  
enjoys nature at Little Lake Joseph*

# A Nation Builder and Cottage Nuisance

By Ann MacDiarmid

The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is native to Ontario and one of Canada's most important foundations. Although European explorers came to Canada looking for the Northwest Passage, they found the beaver. For over 200 years, Canadian history revolved around the quest for the cherished beaver pelt. The fur trade was Canada's biggest industry until logging overtook it in the 1800s. The North American beaver population was once more than 90 million but is currently estimated to be between 10 and 15 million.<sup>1</sup> Today, the Ontario beaver population is estimated at between 2 and 2.5 million.

Many of our current residents of Little Lake Joe would be happy to see the beaver population decrease as favoured trees are cut down, roads flooded by streams dammed by beavers and large stands of trees left to die with their root systems under water for years at a time.

Beavers are most comfortable in the water. On land, they are clumsy and vulnerable to predators. They build dams to create ponds so that they never have to stray far from shore as they forage for food. The ponds they create also ensure that the water around their homes, which are called lodges, is deep enough to allow them to move freely under the ice in the winter. Beavers do not hibernate and the average beaver family is estimated to need one half acre

of forest for its winter food supply. Their favourites include the wood of aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder, birch, maple and cherry trees. They also eat water lilies.

"Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to manipulate and change their environment."<sup>2</sup> They have three basic criteria for choosing a dam site. They need trees for food, a source of running water and the right topography for a pond. Once the dam and the pond are considered adequate, the monogamous beaver couple build their lodge. The lodge has an underwater entrance to make entry nearly impossible for any other animal. The lodge generally has two dens/rooms – one for drying off after exiting the water and another, drier one, where the family actually lives.

Beaver families can have as many as ten kits or yearlings. Beaver pairs mate for life and both the male and the female take part in raising their offspring. When the young are born they spend their first month in the lodge. They can swim at birth and usually move out of the parental home at two years of age. Beavers are very intolerant of intruders from other beaver families and unwanted visitors usually lead to very aggressive encounters.

Is there anything good about the beaver? Beaver do play an important



role in our ecosystem by creating wetland habitat for many animals, birds and insects. In fact, beaver ponds are some of the best places to observe wildlife. The term 'beaver fever' is a misnomer coined by the American press in the 1970's, following findings that the parasite *Giardia lamblia*, which cause Giardiasis (diarrheal infection), is carried by beavers. Further research has proven that many animals and birds carry this parasite and that the major contamination is by other humans.<sup>3</sup> It is important to note that a beaver can only relieve himself under water so that scat on your dock did not come from a beaver!

What can we do to reduce beaver damage to our property? Protect your trees by wrapping heavy mesh or multiple layers of chicken wire around the trunks up to four feet off of the ground. Hire a trapper as the residents of School House Bay have done for the past four years (with only minor results in the reduction of damage). Or, according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, "people are allowed to shoot beaver on their own property."<sup>4</sup>

And just in case you are feeling frustrated by our growing beaver population, you may want to remember that the mercury used to separate the fur from the longer guard hairs of the beaver pelt to make felt hats in the 1800s, frequently caused mental deterioration amongst the ungloved hat makers, giving rise to the term "mad as a hatter".<sup>5</sup> 🐹



<sup>1</sup> The Beaver: Natural History of a Wetlands Engineer. Cornell University Press.

<sup>2</sup> National Geographic

<sup>3</sup> National Geographic

<sup>4</sup> Extension Notes; Options for Controlling Beaver on Private Land, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, The Queen's Printer for Ontario.

<sup>5</sup> Up North; Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner, McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1998.

# Save These Dates

## **LLJA Annual Picnic**

Saturday July 21st, 2012

12:00 Noon at the Carl Dare Cottage

North end of Little Lake Joseph – flat beige boathouse

17 Jean Marie Road

## **LLJA Annual General Meeting**

Sunday August 5th, 2012 9:00 AM

McCormick Cottage

North end of Little Lake Joseph – dark brown boathouse with white trim

13 Jean Marie Road

## **We're Coming To Visit**

On Saturday, August 18th we are going on a 100 Mile Cruise to Little Lake Joe aboard *RMS Segwun* and at least 100 antique wooden boats will join her.

The occasion is a re-enactment of the famous 100 Mile Cruise when the steamships left Gravenhurst in the morning, cruised 50 miles to Little Lake Joseph, picnicked at Natural Park and returned 50 miles to Gravenhurst in the early evening. These excursions happened daily during the summer from 1922 to 1958.

The event will include 100 passengers on *RMS Segwun*, going 100 miles with 100 antique boats. Passengers in the boats are being asked to make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society as a way of giving back to the community.

Six vintage watercraft clubs from south and central Ontario are participating in the day. Highlights include photos from a helicopter over your lake, some people in period costume and lots of boats from Disappearing Propeller Boats to large launches to small steamers. We intend to leave Gravenhurst at 8:30 am and arrive in your lake approximately 1:30 pm, staying less than an hour.



If you would like to ride on *RMS Segwun* please contact Muskoka Steamships at **705-687-6667** or to bring your wooden boat, the registration is at [www.acbs.ca](http://www.acbs.ca).

We ask that you respect the number of antique boats in the lake; perhaps not the best time to go wakeboarding. Waving flags from the end of your docks would be a great way to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

More at <http://www.acbs.ca/shows/bigcruise/>

Looking forward to seeing all of you,

## **Mary Storey**

Co-chair 100 Mile Cruise Committee  
[mstorey@cogeco.ca](mailto:mstorey@cogeco.ca)

# Minutes of LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, July 31, 2011

**MINUTES** of the **LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH ASSOCIATION** Annual Meeting held at 13 Jean-Marie Road, Rosseau, Ontario on Sunday, July 31, 2011 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Dirk Soutendijk

**PRESENT:** Dirk Soutendijk, Paula Kirsh, Margaret McCormick, Denis Jean-Marie, Alf Kwinter, Paul Koenderman, Ann MacDiarmid, Sue Higgins

**ABSENT:** Mark Johnstone, Shelley Mackie

**GUESTS:** Mayor David Conn; Councillor Doug Sainsbury - Ward 4; Councillor Jack Hepworth - Ward 6; and Nathaniel Smart - MLA Marine Team.

*The meeting was called to order by Dirk Soutendijk. A quorum was established and the meeting was duly constituted.*

## **Resignation of Directors**

Dirk Soutendijk accepted the resignation of Shelley Mackie from the Board of Directors.

## **Election of Directors**

Dirk Soutendijk proposed the following directors for re-election for a term of three years: Paul Koenderman, Alf Kwinter, Ann MacDiarmid. A motion to re-elect the slate was made by Stafford Higgins and seconded by George Teichman. The motion carried unanimously.

Dirk Soutendijk proposed the following directors for election for a term of three years: Peter Mackie, and Ian Davidson. A motion to elect the new directors was made by Sue Higgins and seconded by Denis Jean-Marie. The motion carried unanimously.

## **I Minutes**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the Little Lake Joseph Association Annual Meeting held Sunday, August 1, 2010 as circulated in the Loon Call was made by Paula Kirsh and seconded by Barbara McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

## **II Financial Report**

Treasurer, Paula Kirsh, also provided a brief report on our current financial position and number of paid memberships. A motion to approve The Financial Report dated August 31, 2010 as circulated in the Loon Call was made by Ann Davidson and seconded by Paul Koenderman. The motion carried unanimously.

## **III Recognition**

- Don Fleming passed away this spring and was remembered for his contributions to the LLJA by Dirk Soutendijk, Stephen Ader, and George Teichman.
- Dirk Soutendijk recognized Paul Koenderman for his support with the publication of the Loon Call. Paul Koenderman is responsible for the formatting, editing, printing and mailing of the Loon Call and generously donated his time and resources to this publication.

## **IV Director's Reports**

1. **Membership:** Paula Kirsh reported that we have a record membership at 96 association members. The LLJA records show 110 cottages on the lake. Alf Kwinter attributed the increase in membership to the new invoicing system implemented this year.
2. **Water Testing and Quality:** Denis Jean-Marie explained how the water-testing device he has invented collected water samples at a depth of 5M. The biggest indicators of a healthy lake is the phosphorous and calcium content.
3. **Shoreline Observations:** Alf Kwinter asked the membership to comment on their observations of wildlife this season. The following was noted: fewer bats(due to a disease), more mosquitoes, a good presence of frogs, loons, herons, snakes, and a decrease of Rock Bass because of an increase in Pike. Ann MacDiarmid drew membership attention of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey by encouraging members to read the pamphlet and help to ensure that our lake remained Loon friendly. Swimmer's itch was also mentioned and symptoms were described.
4. **Discriminatory Hydro Rates:** Ian McKenzie informed the membership that Hydro One bills seasonal and non-seasonal residents differently. Seasonal residents pay about \$300 more for the same service as non-seasonal residents receive. A non- seasonal resident is defined as being in residence four out of seven days for eight months of the year. The reliability/accuracy of "time of use/smart meters" was also questioned. It was noted that personal accounts could be monitored by going on the Hydro One website and entering a personal hydro account number.

*Minutes continued ...*

# Minutes of LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, July 31, 2011

## V Guest Speakers

### 1. MLA Marine Patrol Presentation:

Nathaniel Smart, a member of the MLA Marine Team, spoke about the mandate and presence of the Marine Team on the Muskoka Lakes. The primary role of the Marine Team, which is part of MLA Community Affairs Portfolio, is to educate and promote safe and responsible boating. The team is composed of six members, all university students, and operates two Boston Whalers donated by Gordon Bay Marina. They are presently engaged in a campaign to distribute a package on boating safety to every cottage in Muskoka. The OPP are solely responsible for enforcing the laws on the lakes. There has been a significant increase in the fines for boating offences (reference Page 71 of the Safe Boating Guide). Transport Canada is responsible for all signage on the lakes. There is a 9km speed limit for boats travelling within 66ft of the shoreline. The Joe River has a 9km speed limit. Information about boating safety/ rules/issues can be obtained by contacting the MLA (Marine Team) office at 705 765 5723.

### 2. Township Representatives:

Dirk Soutendijk welcomed Mayor David Conn, Councillor Doug Sainsbury and Councillor Jack Hepworth, congratulated each one on their victory in the last municipal election and applauded their management of the municipal budget and response to cottagers' concerns.

#### Doug Sainsbury reported that:

- The tax rate went down in Sequin Township and is half of the Parry Sound tax rate.
- By 2012 the Township will be out of debt which means that \$900,000 will no longer be spent each year to service debt.
- The objective of the present council is twofold: to build an adequate reserve fund and reduce taxes.
- It was noted that the municipal government has no control over external levies such as Long Term Care, Ambulance and Police.

#### David Conn reported that:

- The council addresses new funding requests by asking what should be given up in the budget to provide the funds for a new project.
- The Official Plan is in the process of being reviewed. It must be reviewed every five years. The number and type of variances is reviewed and then the plan is examined to determine whether modifications to the plan should be entertained. There will be open houses to receive suggestions and recommendations.  
Jack Hepworth addressed the issue of by-law infractions.
- The township is often in a reactive position rather than a pro-active situation with respect to by-law infractions. Because of the size of the township the township is often unaware that infractions have occurred. Experienced contractors, who are well aware of the by-laws, "ask for forgiveness not permission" and the Township cannot prosecute the contractors to prevent them from breaking the by-laws. There are no financial constraints for the township when it is involved in a lawsuit.
- Seguin Township is presently involved in a court case (to be heard in November, 2011) regarding a \$750,000 addition to a cottage that contravenes the by-laws. If the Township is successful the cottage addition will be torn down.
- Prosecuting an offender is difficult because the law requires proof of what existed on the land prior to construction, tree cutting, blasting etc. This requires a GPS picture of the property. The Township is in the process of obtaining these pictures for every piece of lake property in the township.
- The by-laws that are presently in place to preserve the shoreline relate to: Blasting, Tree Cutting and Fill.
- Presently, a stop work order has been issued relating to fill and the construction of a stone wall at the "old" MacLaren Property.
- Municipal governments are looking for provincial support for their environmental by-laws.

## VI Other Business

**Annual Meeting Time:** The membership voted to continue to hold LLJA Annual Meeting at nine a.m. rather than ten a.m.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer Lebow and seconded by Paula Kirsh.

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Chairman & President Secretary

Dirk R. Soutendijk M. Margaret McCormick

# LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended August 31, 2011

**Income**

Membership fees 2011	\$4,950
Investment and other interest	<u>0</u>
<i>Total income</i>	<u>4,950</u>

**Expenses**

Liability & Directors' Insurance	1,275
Picnic 2011	757
Water testing - MLA	280
Bank charges & PO Box	275
Annual meeting and donations	83
Postage and mailings	<u>137</u>
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>2,807</u>

**Excess of income over expenses** **\$2,143**

Cash & Investments August 31, 2010	\$17,424
2010 Membership dues received	900
2011 Membership fees receivable	0
2010 Liabilities paid	(75)
Excess of income over expenses	<u>2,143</u>

**Cash and term deposits  
August 31, 2011** **\$20,392**

Cash available August 31, 2011	10,392
Investments at August 31, 2011 (due Oct.26/11)	<u>10,000</u>

**Cash and term deposits  
August 31, 2011** **\$20,392**



**Ann MacDiarmid**  
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*President*

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*Past President, Water Testing*

**Paula Kirsh**  
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*Treasurer*

**Margaret McCormick**  
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*Secretary*

**Alf Kwinter**  
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*Membership*

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*Water Testing, Shoreline Committee*

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*Picnic*

**Paul Koenderman**  
pkoenderman@yahoo.com  
*Loon Call*

**Ian Davidson**  
ian.davidson@accenture.com  
*Member at large*

**Get Involved in your Association!!!**

You are encouraged to get involved in the Little Lake Joseph Association by running for a position on its Board or volunteering to assist with its activities or committees. Each year, there are at least 3 directors whose terms end at the LLJA Association Annual Meeting. If you are interested in sitting on the Board or volunteering to help with events, activities or committees, please contact Ann MacDiarmid at 416-253-8954 or at raptor.comm@rogers.com or speak to anyone of the existing directors.

# LITTLE LAKE JOSEPH 2012



Note: Map not to scale