

Echoes of the Oxtongue

Newsletter of the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association

June 2008

President's Message

We are now into June and supposedly the start of summer but by looking at the weather Mother Nature seems to be one month behind – after such a prolonged and brutal winter we deserve something better! Although there has been a lot of activity on the lake with hammers and saws and a few diehard canoeists, we have yet to have two consecutive days of sunshine to start painting. And yet, we have been told to expect record temperatures for the summer. Right now I say, “bring it on”. I can't wait for hot summer days and warm evenings by the lake.

With summer and the return of all our seasonal friends we will again have the opportunity to get together at the Annual General Meeting. If prior to that you have comments or suggestions for the Board to consider, please feel free to contact me at the following address, stay@algonquininn.com. There are several ongoing issues concerning our lake and community from the health of the lake to the social aspects with the community centre. These topics are included in the newsletter and a detailed update will be provided at the AGM. Until then, I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer at the Lake.

Annual General Meeting

The OLRA annual general meeting will be held at the Community Hall, Monday, August 4, 2008 starting at 10:00 am. Please come out and support your Association and bring your suggestions to enhance our community and make it a better place for all of us.

Citizens' Environment Watch

Citizens' Environment Watch, CEW, is an Ontario-based environmental charity whose mandate is to empower people to take an active role in restoring and sustaining nature. The organization gives communities the tools for education, monitoring and influencing positive change. Since 1996, CEW has engaged over 6000 community members. Further details can be found at www.citizensenvironmentwatch.org.

One of the key programmes organized by CEW is the Ontario Lakes for the Future, OLF, a platform that supports new and existing lake and watershed health monitoring protocols. Through environmental monitoring activities the programme will help the Oxtongue Lake community to:

- Understand how the lake works and is changing
- Take an active role in ensuring that our lake remains healthy for generations to come.

For a modest fee, the OLF programme will provide:

- Educational lake science resources;
- Training resources for ecological monitoring protocols;
- Equipment needed to use the protocols;
- Data management services;
- A report interpreting data collected;
- Advanced help to bring about positive change (e.g. working with local councils).

The health of our lake is of prime interest to all of us both as individuals and as a community. We need to take action now to help mitigate effects of excess nutrients (resulting in harmful algal blooms), climate change and other short-term and long-term changes affecting our lake and its ecosystem. The OLRA Executive has decided that it would be in everyone's best interest to participate in the OLF programme. We have applied to join and our registration has been accepted. We are most grateful to Ben and Robin Teskey from Wolf Den who have volunteered to take the lead for us. We are expecting a visit from OLF the first week of June.

For the first year, the Executive decided to monitor the following parameters; spring-turnover total phosphorus, near-shore total phosphorus, water clarity, flowering plants, frogs, ice-on and ice-off. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to work together on a common cause – please respond positively when Ben and Robin seek your help and participation.

Beetle Lake Trail Update

In 2005 we reported on the beautiful 5 km hiking trail that starts and finishes right here at Oxtongue Lake. This trail, along with 8 others is a joint initiative of the Township of Algonquin Highlands and the Algonquin Highlands Trails Committee. Brochures and maps may be obtained from May to October from the HHWT Office, beside the Frost Centre Institute at 20130 Hwy 35 N, or by telephone, (705) 766-9033. Maps can be downloaded from www.Algonquinhighlands.ca and following the link to 'Hiking Trails'. Walking the Beetle Lake trail is a most pleasant way to spend an afternoon. It allows hikers to view a spectacular part of the Algonquin Highlands forest surrounding Oxtongue and Beetle Lakes. Evidence of beaver activity and blue herons can be seen on the lower section of the trail near the bridge that crosses Oxbow creek. Hikers are rewarded

with beautiful views from the high rocky cliffs overlooking Oxtongue Lake.

Notes from the Fire Department

Your Volunteer Fire Department at Oxtongue Lake continues to grow. We now have extrication equipment "Jaws of Life". This equipment will enable us to free people who are trapped in vehicles due to accidents and to provide first aid much faster.

We have also taken possession of a tandem axle trailer that was needed to transport our snowmobile, rescue sled, A.T.V. and bush firefighting equipment. In the next month we will also be acquiring a 4 x 4 pick-up truck that will be used for our extrication equipment and to tow the trailer.

This recently acquired equipment is necessary for us to provide an essential service and was jointly purchased by the Township of Algonquin Highlands and our fire fighters association. The association raises funds through raffles, etc. We are raffling a canoe again this summer so please support the fire department and purchase some tickets.

PLEASE replace the battery in your smoke detectors and make sure they are working. It's the Law that you have smoke detectors on every level of your home.

PLEASE be careful with fire. There is no burning allowed between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm except for cooking and warmth.

Watch for the posted signs that indicate changes for burning and please use common sense.

PLEASE have a safe, healthy, happy and accident free summer

Ted Keown
District Chief

Hwy 60 Road Improvement.

Further to the report prepared by Chris Woodfield which appeared in the last newsletter, we have been informed that the

excessively deep snowfall this winter prevented the survey crews from completing their work on schedule. As a result, the community meeting which was scheduled for June has been postponed until July, date still to be announced – watch for notices at Hessel's General Store and Parkway Resort.

New Dump Hours

Effective June 1, 2008, the Oxtongue Lake Landfill & Municipal Recycling Centre will have new hours of operation.

Summer (May 1 to Oct 15):

Sunday	8 am to 5 pm
Monday	8 am to 1 pm
Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	closed
Thursday	1 pm to 7 pm
Friday	8 am to 1 pm
Saturday &	8 am to 5 pm
Holiday Mondays	

Winter (Oct 16 to April 30):

Sunday	11 am to 4 pm
Monday	closed
Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	closed
Thursday	9 am to 1 pm
Friday	closed
Saturday &	closed
Holiday Mondays	

New disposal fees for non-household garbage also come into effect June 1, 2008 – please check with the Township of Algonquin Highlands or the Dump Superintendent for details.

Reminder:

Effective January 1, 2008, clear plastic garbage bags are mandatory for the disposal of household garbage.

BIG RED

On Earth Day, April 22, 2008 the Township of Algonquin Highlands introduced a new service for the disposal of batteries, cell phones, compact fluorescent bulbs and printer cartridges - see flyer at the end of the newsletter. Unfortunately this service is only available at the Maple Lake Landfill initially

but will be coming to Dorset soon and we are hoping that it will be extended to include Oxtongue Lake before too long. Contact Gayle Short, Waste Reduction Educator for further details ((705) 489-2379)

Health Professionals

Jim Mitchell, volunteer Chair of the Haliburton Highlands Health Professionals Recruitment Committee, has requested us to include the following notice in the newsletter. The chronic shortage of healthcare professionals in our communities is a serious concern for all of us. If you feel you can help, please contact Jim directly.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WANTED

We are currently recruiting healthcare professionals for our community. There is an immediate need for full-time Family and Emergency Physicians and part-time Registered Nurses. In addition, to ensure the ability to provide healthcare to the influx of cottagers and tourists to the area during the summer, Physicians are needed for locums and contract or casual positions are available for RNs, RPNs and MRTs.

If you, your family members, friends or neighbours are interested in "practicing where you play", more information about current employment opportunities is available by calling (705) 457-1212 x300 or logging on to www.haliburtonhighlandshealthcare.ca.



Community Welcomes new Businesses.

Oxtongue Lake is pleased to welcome two businesses to our community.

- The Pines Resort on Oxtongue Lake Road re-opened for business May 30 under new ownership;
- Algonquin Highlands Trail Riding is now open for business. It is located at 1099 Blue Spruce Road.

We wish both initiatives every success and look forward to them contributing to the prosperity of our vibrant community.

Membership

It is time to renew your membership in the Association. Please complete the Membership Form and bring it along with a cheque for \$30 to the OLRA Annual General Meeting or send it to the Treasurer, Jim Elliott, c/o 8 Island View Blvd., Toronto, Ontario M8V 2P4 or drop it off at Helsel's General Store. E-mail addresses are appreciated where possible as they facilitate rapid communication with our members and reduce mailing costs for the newsletters.

*Editors: John & Margaret Lawrence,
lawrencemj@svmpatico.ca*

Membership Form Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association 2008/09

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Cottage Address*: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Address* (if different from above) _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

*Please indicate which address you would prefer we use for correspondence and newsletter:

Cottage _____ Home _____ E-mail _____

Telephone

Cottage _____

Home _____

E-mail address: _____

Please indicate whether you are willing to receive future newsletters by e-mail to help reduce postage costs:

Yes _____ No, I would prefer to receive by mail _____

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY JUNE 29TH 2008

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m



COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

**hot dogs and soft drinks courtesy of
Oxtongue Fire Dept.**



"SAVE OUR CENTRE"

**How can this Important Oxtongue Lake
Landmark serve your Community better?**

Give us your suggestions

**Sports Events? Programs? Get Togethers?
Games? Family Reunions?**



DONATIONS APPRECIATED



**WOW!
IT'S FREE!**

THE TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS PRESENTS ...

BIG RED

THE PLANET SAVER!

**HELP SAVE THE
PLANET FROM HEAVY
METALS AND OTHER
EVIL TOXINS**

Join forces with **BIG RED**—the Planet Saver to keep hazardous waste out of our landfills.

Collect and bring your:

- **SINGLE-USE/DISPOSABLE BATTERIES** — alkaline, lithium, zinc-carbon (D, C, AA, AAA, 9V, 12V, etc.), and button cell type (watch hearing aid batteries, etc.)
- **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES** — Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb) weighing less than 1 Kg (2lbs)
- **CELL PHONES** — broken or working
- **CFL (Compact Fluorescent) BULBS, and**
- **PRINTER CARTRIDGES** — inkjet or laserjet

to the **Maple Lake Landfill** and deposit them in the **BIG RED** bin for recycling.*

Look for the **BIG RED** bin next to the ReUse building at the **Maple Lake Landfill**.

COMING SOON to the Dorset Landfill.

** Free of charge. Algonquin Highlands residents only. Available year-round. These items may also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Day events, at no charge.*



SAVING THE PLANET HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY!

TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS • WWW.ALGONQUINHIGHLANDS.CA • 705-489-2379