

Otter Lake Association Newsletter Spring 2010

To Otter Lake Property Owners:

Hello again from Otter Lake. A lot has been happening this past year, but the most amazing has been the weather! Last fall we had rain, rain and more rain until November, when it cleared and became unseasonably warm. The first few weeks in December were good then the snow came. In a matter of days, we had the total of our winter snowfall and the area was in a snow emergency! You just stayed put until the snow stopped and the snowplows could clear the roads. Except for one more big storm, the rest of the winter saw above normal temperatures with very little snowfall. When March arrived, the bright sunny days soon made all the snow disappear. We again experienced above normal temperatures in April, with little rain and lots of sun. Huntsville had better weather than Florida! Because of the lack of rain, Muskoka had to issue a **no burning ban**. For up to date information see the fire board at the lock's bridge or contact the local fire department.

It's amazing the number of activities happening around Huntsville. This past winter, the Ontario Winter Games were held in Muskoka. The Muskoka Loppet (cross-country ski racing) was held at Arrowhead Park. There were dogsled races at Kearney, Pond Hockey tournaments (Deerhurst has the biggest with 20 outdoor rinks on Penn Lake and drawing players from around the world!) and local hockey tournaments at the Centennial Center. In the Arts area, there are drama and musical production groups, with both professional and local talent that is excellent. The Algonquin Theatre is a busy place year round! Many fund-raising events to support local charities and the Hospital are always ongoing. The Hospital deficit was a concern and more cuts were made to their budget, with the loss of services and expertise. Petitions were signed and local meetings held with the governing bodies, etc., to help maintain good hospital services. Huntsville is a very active and caring community. To keep you informed, there are magazines that are printed monthly. Two of them are WHAT'S UP, Huntsville / Lake of Bays and the Muskoka Magazine. Also, our local newspaper, The Forester, keeps us informed; especially page six, which is the editorial page with letters to the editor.

Preparations for the G8 at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville are starting in earnest. The security measures in particular are taking shape. RCMP, OPP, Military and other security forces are setting up their camps at different locales. I believe there are three security zones around Deerhurst, where wire mesh is being installed. As the June deadline approaches, security for these zones will be tightened. No trucks will be allowed on West Browns Road, for example. For more information about the G8 and road restrictions, go to the Town of Huntsville website. All the G8 infrastructure projects are now nearing completion. An open house for the new Summit Centre and University of Waterloo buildings will take place in May. When the G8 is over, a more formal opening will take place (big bash!!)

Huntsville is also hosting the National Aboriginal Day Conference. This will be held at the newly renovated community center and the new Conroy Park (behind the convenience store on Brunel Rd.). This will also be a big event.

Huntsville is in the development stages of designing a Unity Plan to be completed in the fall of 2010. There have been several public forums and committees set up to help

with this. The Plan is intended to provide a blueprint for Huntsville's sustainable environmental, economic and social development. Go to the Town of Huntsville website for more info on this.

At this time we would like to thank Chad Schoppel, who has been keeping the Otter Lake website up to date (<http://www.otterlake.info>) for us. Check this out to view information regarding the lake and links to other websites pertinent to the health of our lake.

Also, thanks to Ted Mercer for attending the Huntsville and Lakes of Bays Council. Ted has been attending these meeting throughout the year on your behalf. A report from this council will be presented at our AGM this year to bring you up to date. The council (HLBC) has several committee groups covering the concerns of many landowners.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to properly dispose of their garbage. Please use the big dumpster for household garbage only and **make sure the latch is secure**. If not secure, animals get in and create a mess! Also make sure recyclables are rinsed or cleaned. This will also help to keep animals at bay (especially the big black ones with a very acute sense of smell!).

If you are interested in helping out or serving on the OLA, or want more information, please contact one of the directors below. We are looking at developing a package as a handout for newcomers or realtors, with information about Otter Lake.

Attached you will find a copy of the OLA 2010 membership form, which can be filled out and sent to any one of the directors. This is your association. **BE INFORMED; SUPPORT YOUR OLA AND SIGN UP AS A MEMBER TODAY!**

Mail membership forms to:

68 Otter Lake Cottage Rd., RR#2, P1H 2J3, c/o Chad Schoppel

2010 Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 7, 2010

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Topic: septic systems (maintaining, types, etc.)

Place: to be announced

Pot luck lunch: 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by July 30/10 to any one of the directors. We need to know numbers in order to accommodate all who wish to attend. Thanks and hope to see you there!

Directors:

Chad Schoppel – 705-789-4019

Jodie Dynes – 705-789-4019

Ted Mercer – 705- 789-7531

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