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Subject: Fwd: Horseshoe Lake Association Fall 2016 Newsletter
Date: May 12, 2017 at 10:36 AM
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Sent: November 11, 2016 5:26 PM
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Subject: Horseshoe Lake Association Fall 2016 Newsletter



Horseshoe Lake Association FALL 2016 Newsletter

www.horseshoelakeassociation.org

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Poem: Waiting for the Rain
Newsletter editor: Judy Keating

President's Message

Hello HLA members:

What a summer 2016 was for amazing weather! So many warm sunny days and clear nights. I hope you were able to take advantage of some of it.

One downside to the lovely weather was the long drought from early spring to late summer. While it makes for wonderful enjoyment of outdoor activities, it does stress the lake, including the surrounding plants and animals in the environment. We were within an inch or two of the lowest ever recorded water levels causing issues for Virtue Lake residents. In addition, the drought brought fear about fires, bear problems and great concern another algae bloom would be triggered.

Fortunately for all of us, levels rebounded late summer and there was no algae bloom in our lake this year. Maybe the late summer rains and cooler nights help avert a bloom or maybe better lake stewardship practices (like proper septic maintenance) followed by more and more people is paying off. There are too many factors to tell. However, the HLA will remain diligent, encourage best practices and follow up with the township

regarding the septic inspection programs and other aspects of land use around our lake. As an association, our voice with local and regional governments is only as strong as our membership list so we are implementing a few programs to encourage and grow membership.

One of those programs is the new **Affiliate Association Program**. This program allows and provides an advantage to members in other associations such as road associations to join the HLA through their current association.

The program has the following elements:

- Open to Associations with 15 members or more
- Each Association must opt in with all of its members
- Updated member list with lake address and email contact is provided annually to the HLA
- Dues are collected by the Association and remitted to the HLA Treasurer annually
- Dues are \$15 per member/year
- Program members receive full membership privileges
- Each Association will be allotted one Board position for the Association President or designate

At the AGM, I was very happy to welcome the Christie Bay Road Association, with its 25 members, as the first affiliate association members. I will be approaching the other associations around the lake to

encourage them to join the HLA through this program. As a consequence of the higher membership numbers we plan to lower the regular membership fee to \$30 next year.

The board is planning for even more to come so please read on and support your lake by encouraging all your neighbors to become HLA members.

Stay healthy and safe and I look forward to seeing you next season!

Trevor Wilcox, President

David Thacker - Director of Water Quality

"For The Sake of The Lake"

Fall 2016 Water Update

Rainfall

Month	Average (mm)	2016	2015	2014
May	57.3	48.6	15.8	58.8
June	74.3	26.7	49.2	98.2
July	75.3	64.8	27.0	69.9
August	80.5	60.9	44.0	58.8
Total	287.4	199.2	136.0	285.7

We have come to the end of another unusual summer for weather. It felt hotter and drier this year for much of the summer. However, in reality, we had more rain this year than we did in 2015. The chart below gives total rainfall readings by month. It is important to note that we have had 2 years of dramatically below average rainfall.

The maior difference between this vear and last vear was how the rain actually fell. In

2015 we had very few days of rain but when it rained there was a large downpour in a short period of time. This year we had more days of rain and less rain at any one time. This difference meant we had significantly more runoff in 2015 which poured more phosphorous into the lake. That was a major contributor to the Blue Green Algae Bloom last year.

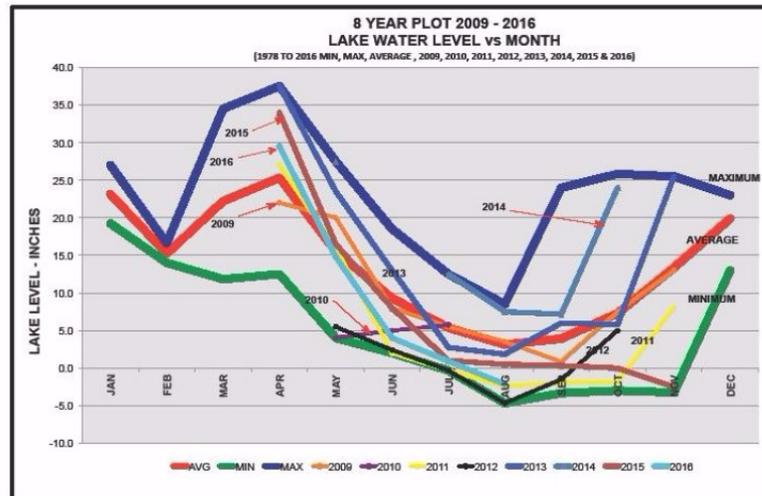
We were fortunate that after a long hot and dry summer we didn't experience an Algae Bloom. Unfortunately, our neighbours on Otter Lake weren't so lucky. In mid September there was an Algae Bloom detected and residents were told to avoid using their lake water for any purpose.

The message is clear for all of us. We need to make sure we do everything we can to limit our impact on phosphorous levels in our lake. Please be vigilant!!!

Water Levels

The second dry summer in a row has had a major influence on Water Levels on Horseshoe and Virtue Lakes. Below is the graph that summarizes the water level history on our lakes. Studying the graphs will show you that we came within 1 inch of the lowest levels recorded in the last 38 years. You will also note that the 2016 line shows a dramatic drop in April and May with levels continuing to drop through to the end of August. In early September water did begin to rise and the levels are up 5 inches from the lowest point.

PREPARED 25 AUG 2016



Water Testing

We continue to participate in the Seguin Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program. This program is an important measure of changes to the water in our lakes over time. Seguin Township manages the program and reports annually for all lakes across the township. Below is a graph that shows both Secchi and TPC results up to 2015. We will share the 2016 results in the spring when they become available. As a reminder, the Secchi Test is an indicator of algal abundance and general lake productivity. The Total Phosphorus Concentrations Test (TPC) shows changes in phosphorus levels, which will decrease water clarity by stimulating algal growth.

Test	Highest Level	Lowest Level	2015 Level	2014 Level	2013 Level
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Test	Highest Level	Lowest Level	2010 Level	2017 Level	2018 Level
Secchi (metre)	1999 - 5.60	2012 - 2.62	3.7	3.4	3.7
TPC (ug/L)	2003 - 18.4	2005 - 5.4	6.4	5.8	6.2

Lake Stewardship

We are continuing our commitment to the Seguin Lake Stewardship Program and are aligned with Seguin Township in our commitment to water quality on Horseshoe and Virtue Lakes. The HLA has invested time and resources to support the Lake Stewardship Program sponsored by Seguin Township.

There are three principles that ground the Lake Stewardship Program:

Keep it Natural...Imagine what your property looked like before construction and try to mimic it wherever possible.

Respect Character, Aesthetics and Ecology...Blend your development and landscaping activities into the local setting.

Minimize our Human Input...Reduce your impact on the natural and social environments.

We have brochures outlining the program and rating cards that allow you to evaluate your property against the “Living Sustainably in Seguin Handbook” criteria. Once you have submitted the rating card to the Township you will receive a Stewardship Seguin Flag acknowledging your commitment to sustainable living. You can mount your flag on your dock or raft signifying your participation.

Septic Re-inspection Program Update

The Septic Re-inspection Program is being run by Seguin Township in collaboration with The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA). Since the implementation of the program in 2002, the main objective has been to inspect existing sewage disposal systems for malfunction, deterioration, erosion and overall compliance with the Ontario Building Code.

The objectives of the current program are twofold. The first priority is to provide a public education service to residents on matters associated with the proper maintenance of their septic systems. This service will be provided in person, by phone, DVD’s, brochures and through maintenance checklists.

Secondly, two students, employed by the Township, performed site inspections in order to identify potential compliance concerns associated with the operation of septic systems.

The students had a total of 807 properties focused in three main areas: Horseshoe Lake, Rankin Lake and Oastler Lake. The goal was to identify health and safety issues as well as maintenance concerns. Within the inspection area, a total of 69 properties were found to be overgrown and the homeowners were informed of the risk and importance of maintaining their septic bed area.

Follow-ups were only completed on properties with health and safety issues such as outdoor showers, unsafe outhouses, direct grey water discharge, loose tank lids, exposed tank or bed, signs of failure and various other concerns. The following chart shows issues that required follow-up in each of the three main areas of focus:

Issue	Horseshoe Lake	Rankin Lake	Oastler Lake
Outdoor Shower	18	2	2
Unsafe Outhouse	12	6	1
Outhouse Does Not Meet Setback			

	2	-	1
Direct Gray Water Discharge	9	2	-
Tank Lids Not Secure	1	-	-
Tank/Bed Exposed	2	-	-
Black Water Pipe Disconnected	1	-	-
Unapproved Sewage Disposal System Causing Sewage Discharge	-	1	-
Seal On Pump Has Become Loose	1	-	-
Signs of Failure	-	-	-
Total	46	11	4

When a health and safety concern was found, the students would try to achieve compliance by working with the homeowner. Property owners were informed of their choices, either removing the hazard or altering it to meet the building code. The chart below shows compliance rates for the 2016 season, with an overall 72% compliance from homeowners in the area.

Compliance	Horseshoe	Rankin	Oastler
Yes	36	7	1
Outstanding	10	4	3

Over the course of the season, a total of 4 issues were passed on to the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority for enforcement. The students could not achieve compliance and the issues, in each specific case, were serious health and safety concerns. A total of 19 properties were not inspected; 4 homeowners did not allow students on the property to complete the inspection; and 15 property owners with gates did not contact students to set up an appointment for their inspection.

AGM 2016 Recap

AGM Recap

The 2016 Horseshoe Lake Association annual general meeting was held at the Humphrey Community Center on August 27, 2016. Minutes from the meeting are available on the HLA website but here is an outline of what was covered:

Water

Quality – Frans Brinkman outlined the continued monitoring program for phosphorus concentrations and water clarity. Levels have remained fairly stable.

Level – Frans also outlined water levels for the summer month on average and over the last 3 years. Water levels have been within an inch of lowest recorded marks due to another dry summer. June was particularly dry with only 26.6 inches of rain vs an average of 74.3 inches and set us up for a summer of low water levels as July and August continued to be below average rainfall.

Weir – The large connected rocks added to the weir by the township last fall will help to stabilize and protect it. The HLA will write a letter to Peter Kopisch officially thanking him for his design and implementation. This fall the HLA, as the land use permit holder, will undertake basic maintenance to maintain the height of the weir and clear the culvert of debris to ensure clear water flow.

Awareness

Fires – All noted how dry this summer has been with a high fire rating for much of the summer. There was a request that the HLA speak the township about having more fire rating signs - specifically on North Sandy Plains Rd and potentially Allen Cres.

Bears – The dry summer significantly reduced berries so bears have been looking for other food sources and bear sightings have increased. All are encouraged to take care with garbage and other items that may attract bears and take measures to be heard when on trails.

Boats – Safe and courteous boating practices are always encouraged. We encourage all who see unsafe behaviour to record it with video and report it to the OPP.

Social

- There were a couple of attempts to start up social events this winter and summer. Rob Gallagher was thanked for his efforts with the Regatta.
- Bob Overholt suggested that a group of cottagers are looking into planning a picnic for next summer. Sounds good.
- A horseshoe tournament was suggested as an adult event. Potentially at the Marina. Sounds good.
- Keith Page again gave an impassioned speech about learning from all the troubles outside of Canada and the need to build connected communities. We are hopeful the HLA may play a part in doing this through the affiliate association program outlined next.

Membership

- Affiliate Association Program proposal. Trevor Wilcox outlined the program to encourage members in other associations to join the HLA. Approval of the program motioned by Roger Garland and seconded by Frans Brinkman. Passed.
- Trevor welcomed the Christie Bay Road Association with its 25 members as the first affiliate association members. Mark Kocaurek is the current president and he or a designate will join the HLA board.
- Trevor Wilcox also proposed that the standard membership dues be reduced from \$40 to \$30 per year for next year (2016-17 year) in anticipation of the increase membership. Fees are set to cover costs which are kept to a minimum. Approval of the new dues motioned by Dave Fullerton and seconded by Bill McMillan. Passed.

Board Elections

After discussion and confirmation of acceptance to stand the following members were proposed to be nominated to the board:

David Thacker – returning for another term

Cathy Cederquist

Bill McMillan

Bob Overholt motioned to approve the nominations and Roger Garland seconded.

Passed.

Financial

- Trevor Wilcox reviewed and explained the draft financials for 2016.
- Jim Hicks was proposed as auditor for 2016.
- Fletch Keating motioned to receive the financial report and appoint Jim Hicks as auditor, seconded by Frans Brinkman. Passed.

Mayor and Lake Stewardship Program

- Mayor Bruce Gibbon addressed the meeting and provided a message of greeting from Ward 1 Councillor Dale Graves. He then discussed how the township is dealing with increased OPP costs while maintaining a modest tax increase below 2% this year. He reviewed the septic inspection programs and indicated that the results will be published this fall and available for further review. The mayor indicated that trailer parks & camp grounds will be brought into compliance this fall with the requirement for an approved site plan. Regarding fires, the mayor indicated staff have been requested to develop a fireworks by-law for consideration and implementation.
- Dominique O'Brien provided a description and update of the Lake Stewardship Program that we hope to implement on Horseshoe Lake.

HLA Board of Directors 2016-2017

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Living on the Brink ~~~ July 2016 by Heather Brinkman

Waiting for the Rain with Jordi

Pine board ceiling
Pine and cedar walls
Spruce planked floor
And A- framed thermopane.

Over the water I sit
Looking at the Lake
Waiting for the roll of thunder
And the promised rain.

Escaping the heat and humidity
I stay shut up
In the coolness of the Muskrat
Reading Louis de Bernieres
In *The Dust that Falls from Dreams*.

Jordi is flaked out on the floor
Snoozing through this heat alert
Hearing only the knock
Of the heat at the door.

No human voice, no radio

No invasive noise of motor boat
Only the soft hum of the fan
Breaks the silence of our wait.

Was that a distant lightning bolt?
A darkening of the sky?
I rise to look down at the Lake
And see her silver surface break
Jumping up and down in glee.

We hear the drumming of the rain
Beating down on cedar shakes
Jordi raises his head in alarm
And slinks off to a darker place.

I give thanks for the rain!
I give thanks for the Lake!
(And thanks for the lightning rods
On the roof.)

Let us honour Nature
And advocate together
To preserve the health
And beauty of our lakes.



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Membership in the HLA

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