



DALHOUSIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Message from the President 2006

Another winter has passed and we are all anticipating great times at the lake. Life on a lake is so cyclical. In the fall the lake grows very quiet as leaves turn colour, ducks and loons leave for warmer climates, docks are pulled up and boats put away. The fall sunsets are always so beautiful as the sun moves further and further southwest. The lake becomes still and then finally freezes over. Soon fish huts appear, ski-doo trails are groomed, and the lake becomes busy again, a little village on the ice with roadways going in every direction. As spring begins to arrive fish huts disappear, ski-doos are put away, the ice breaks up, and finally ducks and loon return and the ospreys build their nest on the lights in the ballpark once again. The first warm weekend brings summer residents scurrying around to get ready for the long-awaited "summer at the cottage." The shoreline is dotted with lights and the lake is busy. The seasonal cycle on Dalhousie Lake is complete once more.

Dalhousie Lake Association has continued to be busy throughout the fall and winter. In October we attended The Lake Links meeting in Perth where we networked with other associations, considering what projects we would like to tackle in the future.

In November, we informed all our members by e-mail or phone about the upcoming public information meetings concerning Ontario Regulation 97/04: Development Interference With Wetland and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. The executive attended these public meetings as well. Neighborhood Watch reports began on our website.

In February we started planning a Tour of the Dams in the western watershed for our members with Gord Mountenay, Water Management Supervisor at Mississippi Valley Conservation. All members were notified through e-mail or phone and the tour took place on April 23rd. We also attended a meeting by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists concerning the possibility of Dalhousie Lake being involved in the Lake Temperature Study.

In March we met with Gord Mountenay and Susan Lee regarding implementation of the Mississippi River Management Plan and the up-coming lake water testing this summer. Jeff Ward Ministry of Natural Resources was contacted concerning the possibility of a Youth Mini-Environthon to take place in August. A proposal was made to the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and our proposal was accepted. Bird Studies Canada was contacted and we will be participating in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey this summer. Each year during the breeding season (June through August) volunteers can collect valuable information on the health of the loon populations as loons act as an indicator of environmental conditions. Our kit will arrive in May. We have also posted information about loons and building loon nesting platforms on our website (dlai.ca) or contact me at 278-0647.

During March and April the executive was in contact, almost daily, with Gord Mountenay, Water Management Supervisory, Mississippi Valley Conservation concerning water levels throughout the watershed. A bulletin board was built by the executive and volunteers in April to facilitate better communication with our members and was installed beside the boat ramp at Sylvania Lodge. Thanks to Brian Forester for allowing us to use his property. The executive met April 15th to finalize plans for meetings and events this summer.

As you can see we are becoming an increasingly active association and any successful association requires members and funds in order to carry out its mandate. Our membership drive will take place throughout May, June and the first part of July. This year we are sending you this newsletter by mail as it is extremely difficult and very time-consuming to try and contact everyone in person. Our membership fee remains at \$15.00. Please make your cheque payable to Dalhousie Lake Association Inc. and mail it to your director as soon as possible. Your director will issue you a receipt.

Why join a lake association? Here are some reasons I feel are important for your consideration:

- Your lake association acts as a liaison between the various agencies (Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Township of Lanark Highlands, Ministry of Natural Resources, etc.) and our members. We e-mail or phone our members with pertinent information concerning water levels, events, meetings, etc. If Dalhousie Lake does not have an association these agencies do not know who to contact and important information does not get communicated.
- We organize information meetings for members only with speakers who are knowledgeable on specific topics that members have told us they need to know more about. Meetings currently planned include:
 - June 24/2006 - Business meeting to discuss events and meetings planned for summer. – Sylvania Lodge, Dalhousie Lake. Important: Please park in the field across from the restaurant.
 - July 22 2006 - Information meeting – Mera Hall, McDonalds Corners
 - Aug 19 2006 – Annual general meeting – Mera Hall, McDonalds Corners

An agenda for each meeting will be distributed a few weeks before the meeting date.

- Your association believes in creating a “lake community” where you know your neighbors, therefore we are committed to organizing a social event once a summer. This year’s Family Fun day will be Aug 12th
- The executive attends meetings to get ideas and learn about projects (e.g. Lake Management Plans) that we think our members might be interested in getting involved in.
- We attend council meetings if topics are being discussed pertaining to the Mississippi River Watershed, Dalhousie Lake in particular.
- The association is interested in preserving and improving the ecosystem of our lake through education, however the association is not a watchdog for other agencies. In the past 2 years, the executive has arranged for environmental experts from Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, The Ministry of the Environment and The Ministry of Health to speak to all members about environmental concerns.
- You would find it valuable to visit the association website at dlai.ca for more information about the association. This summer we will be putting a lock on our web site that will restrict certain information to members only.

There is strength in numbers. My vision would be to have all residences become members to ensure a strong positive voice for Dalhousie Lake. Let’s become an enthusiastic, informed lake community. Your membership gives you a voice.

Judy Hall, President
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