

May 2011

Loon & Turtle Lake Association

Newsletter

Presidents Remarks

Black flies and mosquitoes, it doesn't get any better than that! I would rather put up with them than shovel snow. It has been a long winter but we are looking forward to a great season on the lakes. As always, the executive has been working hard, on your behalf, to organize events for the summer. Gas prices will be the highest we have ever experienced and this could greatly affect the activities around our lakes.

The executive has decided we will be replacing the two sign boards on each side of the lake. Jim Edgar, a cottager on Loon Lake Drive, will design and donate the new sign boards. Jim has started a new sign making business and we have decided to endorse Jim because of his kind donation and his dedication to better the lakes for everyone. These sign boards are going to be more visible with better signage for all of the upcoming events. Thanks Jim for all your work and I know everyone appreciates all of your efforts. If you are interested in a new sign please give Jim a call and allow him the opportunity to make it for you. Lets keep supporting local vendors and especially if they are lake residents.

Over the winter my family and I have been involved in a renovation of our cottage. I have learned first hand our local retailers are more competitive than the big box stores and their service cannot be compared. The local Tim-Br Mart and Home Hardware are second to none. The average pricing on almost everything we purchased was at least 10% less than the larger stores. The local stores will deliver and their customer service is much better. Remember to keep it local, as it benefits all of us.

Mark your calendars for some upcoming special events. Check inside the newsletter for a calendar of events and dates. Hope to see you there

The executive has tried hard to increase attendance at our events.

- **AGM in July** Lola Bratty our new councilor will be attending our meeting. She will be speaking about what is happening with the Town of Gravenhurst. This should be an interesting topic of discussion.
- **Annual Regatta** This is always fun for the adults and the kids. If you have guests the weekend of the regatta



make sure you bring them out. We always have lots of hot dogs and prizes for everyone.

- **Corn roast and bonfire.** If we have enough interest we were considering a pot luck and corn roast which should be a great way to meet and socialize with some of our neighbours around the lakes. Please give us feed back on this suggestion.

Important Reminder: Please be courteous when wakeboarding/skiing. Please keep in mind if you ski close to the shore that docks and shorelines can really get a pounding. This can cause a lot of damage to our docks and shoreline and can be very dangerous for people sitting or walking on the dock. I have received many complaints on this ongoing issue. I have personally had damage to my dock which is both aggravating and expensive to repair. Please be respectful and safe and keep as much to the middle of the lake as possible. In addition, please keep the wakes to a minimum.

I hope everyone has a safe summer and look forward to seeing you at the lake events.

Dick Thomas
President Loon and Turtle Lake's Cottage Association
Cottage 705-687-0787
Home 905-279-3867



Participating in the Cottage Association

My Contribution to this newsletter is the third step in an effort to welcome maximum participation in the Cottage Association for 2011.

The first and primary action is the March mail -out with the handy postage paid return envelope. As of April 30 some 150

cottagers of a potential 250 have responded, thank you,

I don't understand why everyone does not take advantage of this step.

Subsequent to that I have made follow-up phone calls to regular participants who had not yet responded. Our yearly average is approximately 225 members.

With the delivery of this newsletter some of you may be asked by my gracious volunteers to renew your membership of \$25.00.

If all these efforts fail you can expect to see me or a volunteer during the summer to invite you to renew for the 2011 cottaging season.

Please realize that this extra time and effort on our part detracts from our ability to enjoy family time at the lake and is therefore the least desirable step in the process, you can help eliminate it all together.

This process has evolved over the years and I am at a loss

to figure how to make it any easier for you to respond and support the Cottage Association.

I will simply ask that if you intend to, but haven't already done so, please join the association.

Make your cheque for \$25.00 payable to the Loon & Turtle Cottage Association, send it to me, Bruce Earle, 20 Trillium Trail, RR#4 Coldwater, On., L0K 1E0, at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

To all of you who have renewed your membership, we thank you again, and hope you all have a great summer.

Bruce Earle
705 835-5515

Please make your membership cheque payable to "Loon & Turtle Cottage Association"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Road Clean Up
Saturday, June 11th
Redwing Drive
9:30am

Annual General Meeting
Saturday, July 16th
Scout Hall
425 John Street
10:00am – 12:00

Regatta
Saturday, July 30th
62 Loon Lake Drive
Rain Date:
Sunday July 31st
Peter Langer's Cottage
Registration
12:30pm
Event starts at
1:00pm

Corn Roast/ Bonfire
Saturday, Sept. 3rd
62 Loon Lake Drive
Peter Langer's Cottage
7:30pm

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you at these upcoming events!

Seven Layer Salad

Great for Pot Lucks!



What you need:

- 8 cups chopped iceberg lettuce
- 3/4 cup sliced red onions
- 2 cups frozen peas, thawed
- 6 oz. (170 g) sliced deli smoked ham, chopped
- 1/2 cup *Miracle Whip* Dressing
- 1/4 cup Parmesan Grated Cheese
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 cup Mozza-Cheddar Shredded Cheese
- 2/3 cup chopped tomatoes

Make it:

LAYER lettuce, onions, peas and ham in large clear straight-sided serving bowl.

MIX dressing, Parmesan and sugar; spread over salad to seal. Refrigerate several hours.

TOP with shredded cheese and tomatoes just before serving; mix lightly.

HOT SUMMER DRINKS



Watermelon Mojito

Ingredients:

- 4 large mint leaves
- 1/2 Lime
- 1 tbsp super fine sugar
- 4 ounces seedless watermelon, cut into half inch cubes (3/4 cup), plus a small wedge for garnish
- 2 ounces rum
- 1/2 cup ice cubes

Directions:

In a large glass combine mint, lime and sugar. Using a muddler mash together until sugar is dissolved. Add watermelon and muddler until watermelon is broken down. Stir in rum and ice cubes. Pour into an 8 ounce serving glass and garnish with watermelon wedge.

Muddler



Loon & Turtle Lakes Cottage Association: Income Statement as of Dec 31, 2010



Membership Revenue 2010	2010	2009
2008		25.00
2010 – 216 memberships	5,400.00	5,800.00
2009/10 “bonus” receipts	5.00	60.00
2010 bank interest	54.51	95.61
Total Revenue	<u>5459.51</u>	<u>5,980.61</u>
Expenses 2010		
Newsletters		
Membership Drive - estimate	354.70	348.08
Directors meetings exp	40.00	
Regatta	811.07	886.95
Annual Meeting	147.53	124.75
Corn Roast	81.91	95.25
Environmental		
Safety		
Road Clean Up		
Information Boards		
Road Signage (Turtle Crossing)	56.50	
Website 2009 & 2010	257.25	
Dock & Ramp Repairs		
FOCA membership	702.07	656.25
GALA Fees		
Memorials		148.03
General supplies (office)		
Insurance Liability	853.20	831.60
Insurance D&O	345.60	334.80
Bank Service Charges	72.86	65.44
Courier		
Total Expenses	<u>3,722.69</u>	<u>3,491.15</u>
Net as of Dec 31/10	1,736.82	
Jan 1/10 Bank Balance	\$23,613.74	
Dec 31/10 Bank Balance	\$25,350.56	

A Healthy Lake is in Everyone's Best Interest

I'm happy to report that the water quality in Loon and Turtle lakes is good and getting better. The yearly testing for phosphates has shown a consistent level for many years which is what the Ministry of the Environment is looking for. Every lake has a "signature", a natural amount of phosphate. It is the comparison year-to-year that determines if there is a problem.

A number of factors have contributed to this good news. A key one is the aggressive septic inspection system that Muskoka has put in place. Within the last 10 years, many septic systems around our lakes were failing or not functioning properly. The inspection system identified them and cottagers did the right thing in bringing them up to standard.

Another great stride has been a more enlightened use of chemicals such as no phosphate detergents used in our cottages. Not that long ago, many chemicals we thought nothing of went directly into the lake or our septic systems. Eventually, even after going through the septic process, some of these damaging chemicals made their way into our lakes.

Other developments such as the use of 4-stroke versus 2-stroke outboard engines, the "return-to-Mother Nature" that many cottagers have adopted on their properties to create a buffer to limit damaging run-off, and the "ditch the grass and fertilizer" that goes hand in hand with "...Mother Nature", these have all contributed to a better sense of stewardship of our precious lakes.

In 2011, we continue with testing our water quality, the results of which are posted every year on the Ministry of the Environments website.

We also are on guard against non-native water weeds such as the Eurasian Water Milfoil, so if you see something that doesn't look familiar, pick a sample and bag it and drop it off at the Helston cottage, 91 Pinetree Rd. We'll get it identified.

We are also doing Benthic Testing again, a study of tiny creatures in the sand and mud bottom of our lakes. You would be amazed at the diversity of tiny creatures in a bucket

of mud!! I know it sounds kind of disgusting, but the count results show the health of a lake at its most basic level. The more bugs, and the more types, the better.

We will need some help again this year from some environmentally-committed children to do the creature counts. We will send an e-mail with the date and location when we get this set up.

There are a few items still on the "to do" list to consider for each and every cottager and especially for your guests who often just need to be informed:

- never put anything into the lake that you wouldn't drink yourself
- if you still have a 2 cycle outboard, think seriously about trading it in on a 4 cycle
- if you absolutely have to have grass, do not fertilize it and please let Mother Nature fill in the shoreline with natural vegetation that can filter run-off

There is nothing more exciting than watching a baby loon be raised by its doting parents. Loons nest only 18" from the edge of the water, so wake boats that send waves up on to shore from mid-May to mid-June (loon gestation in the egg is 24 days) automatically destroy the nests and we end up with no baby loons. **Please be careful!**

If you have other concerns about environmental issues on Loon and Turtle lakes, e-mail me at:

peterhelston@contractmagazineservices.com or during the summer, 687-0124.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Picking a trillium seriously injures the plant by preventing the leaf-like bracts from producing food for the next year. A plant takes many years to recover.

While it is a popular belief that it is illegal to pick the common *Trillium grandiflorum* (white trillium) in Ontario in reality they are only protected in provincial parks and land owned by conservation authorities. However, the rare *Trillium flexipes* (drooping trillium) is protected by law in Ontario because of its very small Canadian population.

Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants.

Some trilliums have a flower which is bent downward, below the leaves.

A white trillium serves as the emblem and official flower of the province of Ontario. It is an official symbol of the Government of Ontario.