



# Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2009

Website: <http://www.halls-hawk-lakes.com>

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## Communication & Networking Program

### *Message from the President George Legate*

Hopefully everyone has, by now, wrung themselves out from one of the wettest summers on record. If you're a seasonal resident, I hope you were at least able to enjoy some of a rather pleasant autumn at the lake.

#### **Recognition:**

I wanted to begin the newsletter with some well-deserved recognition. I'll start with **Jim Fox** who organized and ran a most successful **Symposium** in late August. More on this inside this newsletter.

**Elaine Burbidge, Ted Burbidge** and **Grace Mals** logged countless hours (well, about 80 at last count) bringing our property owner **records** for the three lakes up-to-date. We are most grateful for their herculean effort in sifting through and recording data on file at the Township offices.

Our thanks also goes out to **Diane Rock** and **Mark Hanlon** who gave our **Web** page a much needed facelift and update. These two are now open for business in coordinating any stories, information or messages you wish to get out to the Lake community. Please email your article to **carole@halls-hawk-lakes.com**. Mark will be working behind the scenes as the "techie".

#### **Airport:**

Following is a brief update on airport activities. If you missed our AGM, the membership voted in support of the Township refurbishing the existing airport runway but also voted to oppose all planned airport expansion. It was also determined that we would continue to oppose until we received information that would allow us to assess how this expansion would affect us. If it was agreed that if the impact was acceptable, we would possibly change our position. To date, there has been no new information and, as such, our position is unchanged.

You will recall that, due to public pressure (which we were part of), this project was the only Infrastructure project slotted for a full environmental assessment by Environment Canada. The common belief is that the Federal Government (Barry Devolin) wanted to see stimulus money flowing in the riding and managed to get Environment Canada to waive the environmental assessment on the refurbishment. Our council was ready to move forward with the refurbishment this fall, but we have just learned that the work has been now postponed until spring as it is now too cold to satisfactorily pave a runway.

The environmental waiver on the refurbishment has given us some concern as

## HHLPOA Mission Statement

- To maintain an ecologically sound natural environment
- To promote courteous and safe use of waterways
- To help establish an adequate water level policy conducive to both ecological and recreational considerations
- To lobby for a reasonable level of taxation and provision of services from local government authorities
- To identify and monitor issues that affect the Halls and Hawk Lakes community

Environment Canada has seemingly broken their own rules in issuing the waiver. The refurbishment and expansion are one infrastructure project and as such should be covered by the same environmental assessment. We, and other Associations, have expressed our concerns to Environment Canada about their apparent disregard of their own rules. Our concern is, that there will be a push to start the refurbishment and new runway in the spring so they are complete before the election next fall. We'll continue to monitor the situation.

### The Shoreline Advisor Program

Perhaps you saw the information we posted or heard the promotional announcement about this free program, the Shoreline Advisor Program, at the AGM. I decided to put my money where my mouth is (or rather my time because the program is free) and scheduled for myself for what turned out to be the first Shoreline Advisor visit on our lakes.

Thanks to a Trillium Grant (Provincial gambling revenue in action), a Peterborough based group called Lakeland Alliance is offering the free one-on-one expert advice and consultation to any resident on a lake in Haliburton. The Shoreline Advisor Program ran this summer and is being offered again next summer. The Lakeland Alliance is asking Property Owner Associations to solicit interest and coordinate the visits as they would like to schedule a few consultations on the same day in the same Lake area to minimize their costs.

My advisor was a fellow named Ian McNab who is a Biologist and retired from a position as CEO of the Kawartha Conservation Association. Ian believes so strongly in the benefits of this program to the overall health of Ontario's Lakes that he is doing this as a volunteer.

Ian began by having me sign an acknowledgement that I understood that he would keep the visit's findings and recommendations absolutely confidential. I cannot overemphasize the pains they took to assure me, as the property owner, that this was a no-obligation visit which was intended only for my education and awareness. There is no obligation on the property owners' part to implement any of the recommendations nor will the Advisor tell anyone (let alone someone in authority) of anything he observed even if it was something quite illegal.

My cottage on Little Hawk was built in the 30's and, as such, is only about 50 ft from the water's edge. About 70% of my shoreline is in a natural state and my interest was what to do about the 30% that was not. I had also recently renovated and built a new addition which had created drainage issues resulting in some shoreline erosion. Ian made some recommendations on plantings for my 30% but, contrary to much of what you read, was not over the top about having a totally natural shoreline. He recognized there was a balance between having suitable shoreline access and naturalization. He was extremely helpful with the drainage and erosion issues and stressed the importance of plant species at the shore that put out numerous and deep roots in order to retain soil. He said many property owners were their own worst enemies when they complained of cloudy algae filling waters at their shoreline. The likely cause for this algae is the nutrients entering the lake from clearing shoreline vegetation which destroys these all important roots. He also noticed a diseased tree and recommended its removal and pointed out where I could do selective removal of limbs on larger trees to encourage growth of some smaller trees.

Ian then looked at how I stored gas and oils and asked questions about how and where I fuel boats and other vehicles. He asked about how I stored and handled hazardous and e-wastes. His attention then turned to what we knew about our septic system (in my case a holding tank) and details on how often we had it serviced. In general anything that had potential to get to and into the water was considered.

The summary of his visit took the format of a Pledge. In all of the categories and items that were touched upon in his visit I was asked to commit to either improve my habits (if they needed improving) or to continue to practice the good habits. Overall I found the 1 to 1 ½ hour consultation to be helpful, thorough, and interesting. It is entirely consistent with what the association wants to achieve with its Lake Plan and would recommend the process well worth the hour or some of your time. Did I mention it's free? We hope to have more details on the 2010 Shoreline Advisor Program next spring. In the meantime, you can contact them at:

**lakelandalliance@cogeco.net 705-745-3238 xt. 207**

To read about more information on healthy waterfronts, you can also download the pdf *A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts* developed by FOCA (website on left). It is 28 page document which you can read online or print out at your leisure.

## Education Program

### *A Fascinating Symposium*

By John MacGregor

This year the HHLPOA held a symposium at the Oakview Lodge on Saturday afternoon, August 29 on several topics of interest to members. Although the attendance was low everyone who did attend was very enthusiastic about the event and strongly recommended that it be continued next year.

Jim Fox organized the entire event and is to be congratulated for its quality and organization and for his excellent choice of speakers. The event consisted of half hour presentations on the following three topics by local experts:

- Ron Tozer presented a wonderful talk about the loon, and its somewhat surprising personality. Many of us did not recognize the often very aggressive nature of the loon and the hierarchical pecking order of the adult males. High quality images and sound recordings were used to present the various calls of the loon (I now can recognize each of these in the morning and evenings over Hall's Lake) and to illustrate its habitat and markings. For more information on the loon, view this website:  
**<http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?pid=1&id=53&cid=7>**
- Leora Bernam discussed the lake trout and fish hatchery. The unique nature of the Halls Lake "Gold" lake trout, the manner in which it is bred in the hatchery and then stocked in Halls lake, and a very few other lakes that are suitable habitats for it made for a fascinating talk. Leora encouraged people to visit the hatchery and to volunteer their efforts to keep this program going. Jim Fox has been one of the regular volunteers for the past few years.
- Al Aubry discussed the trials and tribulations of the Frost Centre at the hands of the provincial government and his heroic efforts (my words – Al was very modest) at rescuing it and turning it into an environmental teaching center. Campers attending the school can now earn Ontario secondary school credits; and a new advanced science program, established with the University of Guelph, allows students to participate in leading-edge research projects under the leadership of some of the world's top environmental researchers.

The atmosphere of the event was greatly enhanced by the HHLPOA providing tickets to each member for wine, cheese and refreshments. Members who missed this symposium should make every effort to attend the next one.



Coalition for Equitable  
Water Flow – Haliburton  
Sector, TSW  
P.O. Box 481, Minden ON  
K0M 2K0  
[cewfchair@yahoo.ca](mailto:cewfchair@yahoo.ca)  
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The County Voice  
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Box 930  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Tel 705 457 5001  
[www.countyvoice.ca](http://www.countyvoice.ca)

#### Roger Young's Comments

[http://cewf.typepad.com/  
County\\_Voice\\_Roger\\_You  
ng\\_October\\_29\\_2009.pdf](http://cewf.typepad.com/County_Voice_Roger_Young_October_29_2009.pdf)

#### Barry Devolin's Response

[http://cewf.typepad.com/  
County\\_Voice\\_2009\\_11\\_0  
5\\_Devolin\\_Front\\_Page.pdf](http://cewf.typepad.com/County_Voice_2009_11_05_Devolin_Front_Page.pdf)

## Stewardship Lake

### *Communication to Member Lake Associations from CEWF (Coalition for Equitable Water Flow)*

Effective September 1, 2009 the Advisory Committee of the Coalition will have Chris Riddle of Kennisis Lake and Martin Rist of Drag Lake as co-chairs. Roger Cunningham of White Lake is the Secretary/Treasurer. The Advisory Committee also includes Ted Spence of Catchacoma Lake, Roger Young of Little Glamour Lake, Stephen Foster of Loon Lake, Bill Cornfield of Horseshoe Lake, **Carole Russell of Halls/Hawk Lakes**, and our Founding Chair, Bonnie Fleischaker.

The CEWF website has been very active since we started posting the weekly water level forecasts provided by the TSW (Trent-Severn Waterway). We hope you are finding this information and other communications posted on the site to be valuable. We encourage you to sign up for automatic emails when there is an update. In this way, you will be kept better informed even during the winter season when your Advisory Committee is still active.

### *HHLPOA responds to Haliburton County Voice articles about Parks Canada's Plans for TSW*

Following is a letter our association submitted on November 11, 2009, to the Haliburton County Voice. For context, please read articles interviewing Roger Young and Barry Devolin (links to articles at left).

To The Editor, County Voice, Haliburton: As Vice-President of Halls Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association (HHLPOA), I am writing in response to your recent articles regarding Roger Young's comments on Parks Canada's plans for the TSW.

For many decades HHLPOA has voiced concerns with the TSW over the management of water levels in the reservoir lakes. Those concerns have consistently fallen on deaf ears. When the Government commissioned a Panel to investigate and develop recommendations for the management of the TSW, the HHLPOA determined that the approach was sound, exhaustive and inclusive. It was our expectation that the recommendations would provide an equitable solution to the many challenges of managing such an important and critical part of our environment and we looked forward to the results. To ensure our perspective was considered, we joined CEWF and have been a strong supporter of their efforts. The report did not disappoint. Indeed, when the Panel's report *It's All About the Water* was finally published, one of the key recommendations called for the establishment of a Independent Water Management Agency. Our Association viewed this as a very positive step towards ensuring that the watershed would be managed with a view to sustainability and that all stakeholders' perspectives would be considered rather than the historical but narrow view of managing the canal and dismissing the needs of a large and diverse stakeholder population.

It appears now that our elected officials have wasted millions of taxpayers dollars. To say that we are disappointed in Park's Canada's plans would be a gross understatement of our feelings. Once again the reservoir lakes appear to have been marginalized and the comprehensive management of the entire watershed by a body charged to do so with all stakeholders at the table has been lost. In this day of global warming and growing recognition of how very important it is to manage our water effectively, it is hard to believe that the people to whom we have entrusted this resource can be so short sighted.

## Lake Plan Mission Statement

- To protect and enhance all elements contributing to the Quality of Life in the Halls, Big and Little Hawk Lakes community.

- To identify government-managed issues, such as Trent Severn Waterways Coalition for Equitable Water Flow, that affect the Quality of Life and to influence their resolution.

-To foster educational, social and stewardship programs that support the spirit of the Lake Plan.

CHA  
Coalition of Haliburton  
Property Owners'  
Associations

Paul MacInnes  
[www.cohpoa.ca](http://www.cohpoa.ca)  
[pmacinn3@sympatico.ca](mailto:pmacinn3@sympatico.ca)

It is not acceptable to this Association to have a myopic and self serving view of "waterway" as reflected in Park's Canada's plans. A comprehensive view of "watershed" as recommended in the Panel's report is critical to ensuring that all stakeholders needs are taken into consideration.

Carole Russell, Vice President, Halls Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association

### *Lake Steward Report*

By Gerry Pinch

The lakes remain healthy with the Ph levels and clarity well within expectable limits. With the cooler, damper weather this year we did not see near the algae bloom that we experienced in past years. We are fortunate indeed that they remain in such good condition.

Ted Burbidge and I attended the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations) Lake Steward's meeting on September 26 (see next article for more information about CHA). This was the first meeting of this type and was primarily held to bring the stewards together for the purpose of introduction and the sharing of information and ideas in the future. To view the PowerPoint presentation made by MNR David Flowers, Fisheries Extension Biologist, Bancroft District, at this meeting go to:

<http://www.cohpoa.ca/misc/mnr-sep26-2009.pdf>

Also, please take some time to read an article about a cottage owner on Kennisis Lake, Township of Dysart et al, County of Haliburton, who was "fined \$45,000 on October 29, 2009, after being convicted at trial for a violation of subsection 35(1) of the Fisheries Act for 'the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat'. In addition to the fines, Her Worship D.L. Jackson also ordered the removal of a shoreline structure known as an aerodrome or ramp, and associated construction materials as part of the process of restoring affected fish habitat."

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/charges-inculpations/2009/ca04-eng.htm>

### *Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA)*

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners associations has had a busy few months.

- They brought all of the Lake Stewards together for their first ever meeting on September 26th. The MNR presentation made to the 30 lakes represented there is on their website at <http://www.cohpoa.ca/misc/mnr-sep26-2009.pdf>
- They are busy putting together a library of great articles that any of their member organizations newsletter editors can use if they wish. CHA will have dozens of articles that are of interest to Lake Area Property Owners, which are peer reviewed and timely. The Minden MNR staff have enthusiastically agreed to write articles as have a number of other organizations and individuals.

For more information about CHA, please contact Paul MacInnes (contact information at left at beginning of this article).

# Administration

## Treasurer's Report

**Thank you!**

by Grace Mals

We want to thank Barbara Bell of Big Hawk Lake for your efforts to clean up the debris near the dam and private bridge at Big Hawk Lake. Your actions support one of the Lake Plan's primary goals: *to protect and enhance all elements contributing to the Quality of Life in the Halls, Big and Little Hawk Lakes community.*

Treasurer's Report 2009								
at October 21, 2009								
EXPENSES								
Expense	Total Expense	Lake Stewardship	Social Stewardship	Watershed Stewardship	Education Programs	Communication/Networking	Administration	Dues and Fees
Newsletters	428.56					428.56		
Insurance	507.60						507.60	
Conf Calls/Web Hosting	443.53					443.53		
Volunteer Canada Members	100.00						100.00	
Spring Newsletter	352.96					352.96		
Meeting Space	155.26						155.26	
Signs Carnarvon Lumber	28.63	28.63						
Wine and Cheese Symposium	1,478.90				1,478.90			
Wine and Cheese Symposium	45.00				45.00			
Membership Foca	520.54	520.54						
Donation	500.00		500.00					
Misc Office Supplies	76.11						76.11	
Feb 27 Item Deposit Fee	0.54						0.54	
	4,637.63	549.17	500.00	-	1,523.90	1,225.05	839.51	-

  

Revenue		
Item	Qty	Revenue
2009 Membership Fees	140	4,900.00
Prior Year Memberships	14	490.00
General Donations	6	215.50
TSW Donations	2	10.00
50/50 Draw AGM		55.50
<b>Total Revenue YTD</b>		<b>5,671.00</b>

  

Bank Reconciliation			
Opening Bank Balance	01-Jan-09		18,072.43
Deposits	20-Oct-09	5,671.00	
Expenses	20-Oct-09	4,637.63	
Bank Activity		1,033.37	
Current Balance	20-Oct-09		\$ 19,105.80
Bank Statement Balance	30-Sep-09		21,221.35
October Deposits	20-Oct-09	560.00	
O/S Cheques	20-Oct-09	2,675.55	
Total O/S Items		- 2,115.55	
Adjusted Bank Balance			\$ 19,105.80

## Contact Directors at...

	First	Last	Title	Lake	Email	Lake Tel #	Home Tel #
1	George	Legate	President	Little Hawk Lake	george.legate@nutechprecisionmetals.com	705 489 4689	613 622 0764
2	Carole	Russell	Vice President	Big Hawk Lake	carole@halls-hawk-lakes.com	None	416 486 5556
3	Diane	Dennis Rock	Secretary	Halls Lake	dianedennisrock@aol.com	705 489 1278	585 388 1761
4	Grace	Mals	Treasurer	Halls Lake	t.g.mals@sympatico.ca	None	905 430 2005
5	Rita	Dadzis	Director	Big Hawk Lake	rdadzis@gmail.com	705 489 4419	NA
6	James	Fox	Director	Halls Lake	careyclose@gmail.com	705 489 1387	705 489 1387
7	Robert	Hartry	Director	Big Hawk Lake	rhartry@kingston.net	705 489 3858	613 384 1494
8	John	MacGregor	Director	Halls Lake	macgreg@mcmaster.ca	705 489 4859	905 628 9140
9	John	Perkins	Director	Big Hawk Lake	perkins5@sympatico.ca	705 489 4580	705 743 5534
10	Gery	Pinch	Director & Lake Steward-Hawk Lakes	Little Hawk Lake	GPinch@rogers.com	705 489 1362	905 831 8468