

Blackstone Lake Cottage Association Spring Newsletter / June 2009

www.blackstonelakeassn.ca

Yes, hard to believe, but this is still a spring newsletter, even though we may be sneaking up on the early days of summer.

The calendar and the temperature of Blackstone Lake both still confirm spring, however! I hope that this newsletter finds both you and yours well and in good health. A warm sunny, blue sky day at the cottage usually puts a smile on all our faces, even in this troubled economy! Welcome back to the lake!

LAKEPLAN

At last summer's AGM, Erik Mathieson graciously volunteered to chair the *Lake Plan* committee. Erik along with Rob Moos put in many hours of work bringing the *Lake Plan* to a point where we can all view it. At this point in time a condensed look at what the *Lake Plan* entails for Blackstone Lake is enclosed in this newsletter for your perusal and comment. It is entitled *Snapshot of the Blackstone Lake and area Management Plan*. There will also be a 19 page expanded version soon to be placed on our website. Then finally, and hopefully by the August 2nd AGM there will be a final draft to be given to each Blackstone Lake cottage family. This important project could not have been taken on by 2 more qualified people. Both Erik and Rob have essentially spent most of their lives enjoying cottage life on Blackstone Lake. Erik's excellent organizational skills and vision along with Rob's Ministry of Natural Resources background and 7 years as our cottage association president allowed this document to continually progress throughout the winter months to where it is today.....ready for your comments and feedback as a community.

In December of 2007 a group of Blackstone lake cottagers from both associations (Blackstone Lake Cottage Association and the Blackrock Estates Ratepayer Association) got together to discuss the *Lake Plan* concept and develop a steering committee. In JP Cayer, Carolyn Rymell, David McCamus, Dr. David Rosen, Todd Cleland, Barb and Andy Metelka, Erik Mathieson, David Kupka and Digby Sale we appeared to certainly have the committee, yet no one to steer the ship. Now that we do

have a committee chair in Erik Mathieson , I encourage those of you who initially got onboard here to assist Eric and Rob as a committee and on behalf of both associations join together on this important project and put this deal to bed. It is something that all our family members and generations to come will thank you for in the years ahead. You may reach Erik at : emathieson@rogers.com

Snapshot of the Blackstone Lake and Area Management Plan

The purpose of this Lake Plan is to identify, protect and improve the important natural, physical and social values and characteristics of Blackstone Lake and area.

The complete document with appendices is still a work in progress but will total over 100 pages. Check the website for more. **None of this is carved in stone, but is intended to initiate a dialogue. EMAIL FEEDBACK to emathieson@rogers.com**

1.1 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Three questions influenced the development of the Lake Plan:

What will Blackstone Lake look like 50 years from now?

What do we value sufficiently that we feel it is worth protecting?

How can we ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy what we have today?

The answers to these questions led to the following vision statement:

Our Community Envisions Blackstone Lake and area to be a place where:

The beauty of the landscape, the tranquility of the surroundings and the quality of the water are protected and preserved;

Precedence is given to activities that maintain the natural and social qualities of the lake over activities that have the potential to degrade environmental sustainability;

A healthy, viable cottage community is fostered

Wildlife, fish and plant habitat are safeguarded;

The lake is a shared experience, where respect and dignity are shown to others and expected in return;

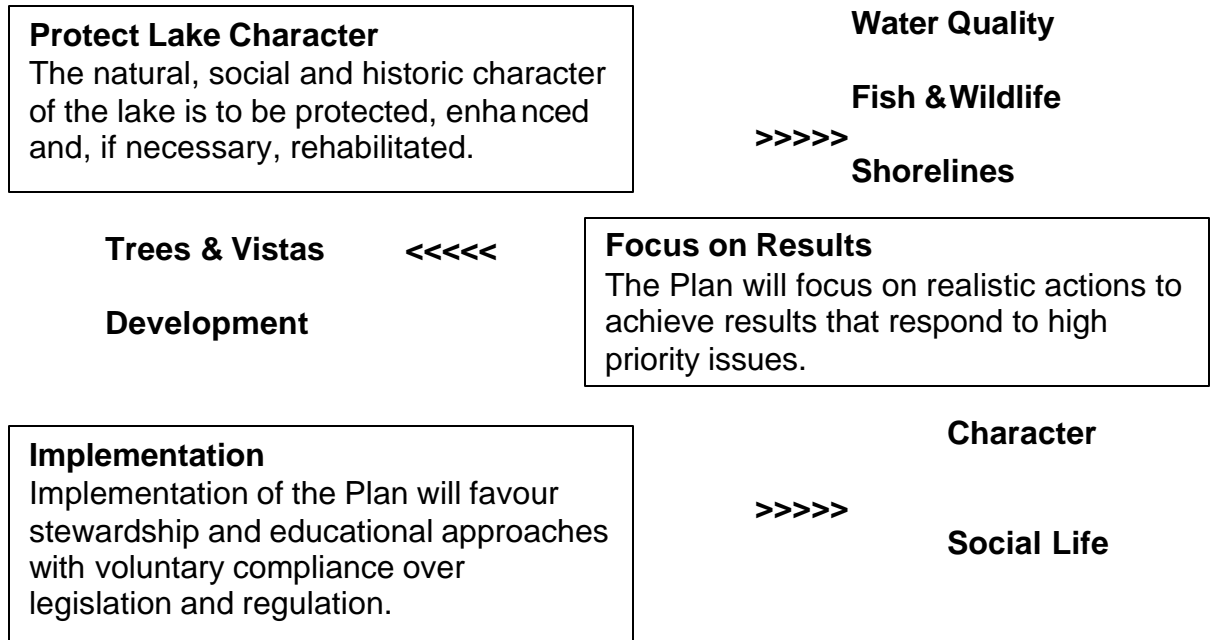
Our community balances the needs of those that desire tranquility with the needs of recreational users; and

The community is actively involved in stewardship; and promotes education as a way to ensure respect for their neighbours and the law.

1.2

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A set of guiding principles was established to focus the Lake Plan on several key values and start the process of making the Vision a reality.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

a. A COMMUNITY APPROACH

In the introduction to this lake plan document the values and vision for community-base approach were articulated.

The lake planning process has identified many issues and even more options for dealing with the issues. The recommended options that are listed in the following sections all reflect high priority issues. Overwhelmingly the preferred approach is one of EDUCATION and COMMUNICATION coupled with STEWARDSHIP.

In only a few cases are REGULATORY actions proposed. Some of the options developed in the preceding section of the lake plan are not being recommended for immediate action - there are just too many. A number of these are nonetheless believed to have merit and should be revisited over time.

8.1 PRIORITY ISSUES

Fourteen high priority issues have been identified that reflect the values and concerns expressed by the Blackstone Lake community. Each issue affects the natural, physical, or social environment of the Blackstone Lake area. The statements in figure 8.1 are intended to capture the essence of each issue.

1. Water Quality

The impact of property development, waste disposal and boating is a threat to the water quality of Blackstone Lake.

2. Development

Over-development has a negative impact on the natural environment, degrades water quality and harms the social environment by reducing the number of places to go to enjoy a wilderness experience.

3. Natural Shorelines

The environmental and aesthetic value of **natural shorelines** is threatened by removal of vegetation and the introduction of man-made structures.

4. Water Access

There is only one option for our many water access cottagers for docking, parking and boat launching access.

5. Power Boating

Inconsiderate **power boating** pollutes a lake, damages the shoreline, puts swimmers at risk, and shatters the tranquility of the lake.

6. Wildlife

The preservation of **wildlife** habitat is threatened by development and increased human activity.

7. Tranquility

Excessive noise from boats, snowmobiles, traffic and cottage sites could reduce the **tranquility** and 'quiet enjoyment' of the natural environment at the lake.

8. Night Skies

Excessive lighting negatively effects enjoyment of the **night skies** and the natural environment.

9. Traditional Rights of Way

Property development is causing **traditional rights-of-way** such as portages and hiking trails to be re-routed or abandoned: this reduces recreational opportunities for enjoyment of the wilderness and reduces the number of "places to go".

10. Sustainable Forestry Management

The community is not aware of the importance of sustainable forest management in our area.

11. Public-Use Lands

We don't have much in the way of public use lands nor a consensus on how they might be shared.

12. History

There has been some good work done by Blair Evans on the history of Blackstone Lake. We need to boost awareness and support continuing work so that we can appreciate and learn from the past.

13. Water Levels

Fluctuating **water levels could** have a negative impact on the natural environment, cause problems for water access properties etc. We don't have this problem yet but need to watch out.

14. Mining Claims Risk

Nothing active, but a remote residual possibility given our history. Again need to be aware. Some regulatory updates to Mining Act underway.

Water Quality

A water quality survey has been prepared by Bluewater Biosciences and Dr. Karl Schiefer Phd., Principal Ecologist for the Township of the Archipelago (TOA). It is available to all cottagers via the township website:

www.thearchipelago.on.ca

click on news, then environment, proceed to and select 2008 Blackstone , Crane , Healey and Kapikog Lakes water quality survey. This is a very well put together analysis, thus no need for duplication here. I encourage all Blackstone Lake cottagers to visit this site. The information was gathered in September 2008 and put into print in March 2009, thus it is reasonably up to date. At this time I wish to highlight a couple of key points in the recommendations section at the conclusion of the Blackstone water quality survey.

Recommendation # 1. (water quality)

The water quality of Blackstone Lake should be protected as a priority!

Recommendation # 2. (lakeshore development)

It is strongly recommended that no further building lots be created on Blackstone Lake. (over and above the 30 existing lots that exist currently for future development.)

Note!! The future development of the 30 existing vacant lots already on the lake will increase the density of shoreline development and levels of human activity on the lake by 25 % above existing levels. (there are currently 119 developed lots) this **could** be considered high for this type of headwater shield lake.

Recommendation # 3. (lakeshore development)

Future lakeshore development capacity should be determined based on a comprehensive long-term vision of the ecosystem, landscape and human environmental features to be protected on the lake.

Recommendation # 4. (lakeshore development)

Those residing on the lake should be directly involved in developing this vision through the *Lake Plan* or *Community Plan* process now occurring on many lakes.

Upon reading these recommendations that were put forth by Bluewater Biosciences and Dr. Schiefer, it is indeed encouraging for us as a lake association to know that we are indeed moving in the proper direction with regards to developing a Blackstone Lake *Lake Plan*. A sincere thank –you goes out to both Erik Mathieson and Rob Moos who have already involved themselves in the process and a thank-you to those of you who are about to involve themselves in the process.

Valerie and Digby Sale are once again doing the Blackstone Lake water sampling this summer. Digby will present in detail at the **August AGM**. This year we are a participant in the **Lake Partner program** whereby one spring water sample is taken (usually in May). The Lake Partner program this year also encourages participation in the **Great Ontario Dip In**. This is to involve all lakes and takes place during the Canada Day week – this will provide a snapshot of water clarity across Ontario.

2008 and Previous Years Averages for Blackstone Lake :

year	tc (mpn)	ec (mpn)
008	44.1	3.8
007	63.5	5.0
006	58.4	4.0
005	592.3	1.0

Notes: To put the numbers into perspective , Provincial Regulatory Guidelines consider total coliform (tc) levels above 200 to indicate deteriorating water quality, and 1000 indicates unsuitable recreational use. Levels higher than 10 indicate the water is unsafe for consumption.

For E. Coli (ec), values greater than 100 are considered unsuited for recreational water use, and values higher than 0 are considered unsafe for human consumption without treatment.

Based on these guidelines, Blackstone Lake water is suitable for recreational use but should be treated before consumption.

The TOA has recommended bacterial objectives of 100 for **tc** and 10 for **ec**. The past 2 years Blackstone only met 1 objective – **ec** in 2008. In the years 2001 – 2008 the **ec** objective was met in every year except 2007. The **tc** objective was met in 5 of the 8 years.

Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC)

In keeping with water quality, this years workshop theme is **Water Quality** – (more than cottage life depends on it). Eric McIntyre organizes this event on behalf of the **MNR**. This year's workshop will be held at the Charles W. Stockey centre in Parry Sound on June 22nd. Numbers are limited, however, should you wish to attend please contact Barb Metelka at bmetelka@gmail.com . The EGBSC was started in 1995 and is part of the Ministry of Natural Resources (**MNR**) Ontario Stewardship Network. There are 40 councils throughout the province and are still expanding. The council's goal is to be an effective facilitator of community participation and voluntary efforts that foster the establishment of healthy, productive and self – sustaining ecosystems. In a nutshell...a lot of good work is done here.

Examples that have had a effect on our lake include:

1. the 2008 **Bass Nest Creation** project spearheaded on Blackstone lake by Andy Metelka
2. the 2007 **Invasive Species** community outreach / education project. You will likely recall Erin Hamlyn from the University of Guelph speaking to our association at the 2007 AGM.

For more information visit: www.invadingspecies.com
www.ontariostewardship.org
www.helpourfisheries.com

Stink Week

Once again this year, Dave McCamus is the organizer / coordinator for water access septic pump outs on Blackstone Lake. They are generally scheduled for the second week in June. On behalf of Dave, we would like to emphasize that is to be an annual program that he is happy to organize this on behalf of our lake....**Thank-you Dave!**

If your cottage requires a septic pump out or should you have any questions regarding this subject...contact Dave at: davidmccamus@cogeco.ca or at the lake: 378-0383. A pump out is recommended every 3 -5 years depending upon the amount of use.

Township of the Archipelago Update (TOA)

Last December the TOA lost the planning services of Jackie Hubbs as she moved along to take a job with the town of Amherstberg as Manager of Development. Jackie was very much a strong supporter of Blackstone Lake and the projects that we have been involved with as an association. Taking over for Jackie in the planning department is Cale Henderson who we will undoubtedly be involved with and look forward to developing a similar relationship with. Should you have any planning questions, do not hesitate to contact Cale at: 705-746-4243 X321 or: chenderson@thearchipelago.on.ca

Councilor's Corner (June 2009)

By Ian Mead

Hello there, once again, summer is just around the corner – we hope! Let me comment on some things that are going on in the Township that affect Blackstone Lake.

Crane Lake Dam: Please see the “Crane Lake Dam” article in this newsletter.

Waste Management: All of you will have received a communication from the Township regarding some changes at the transfer sites. Let me give you some insight as to what happened over the winter.

Healy Lake transfer station closed the 24/7 walk through access in 2007. Last summer, we did the same and closed the 24 hour walk through at the Crane Lake station. As a result, there was a lot of negative feedback from the Crane and Blackstone cottagers. Last fall, I was determined to get the site back to a 24 hour access so I rallied the support of the Blackstone and Crane Lake Associations in preparation for a Deerhorn Conference that was to be focused on Waste issues in the Archipelago. A Deerhorn conference is an Archipelago event held every other year or so where all the Associations in the Archipelago meet with Council and staff to discuss issues. Also in preparation for the conference, my wife and I took a tour of the MCS recycling facility in Bracebridge. After that, I felt pretty confident that we (the Associations and I) could sell moving back to the 24 hour access at the Crane Station. We had the Deerhorn Conference on February 21st with representation from Crane Lake Association, Blackstone Lake Association and Blackrock Estates Association.

The representatives from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) were at the conference and put a wrench in the works by stating that they were gradually insisting that all transfer sites would have to be manned when open. After the conference, the Associations put together a strong position paper asking for the transfer site to be put back to a 7/24 availability.

Then, as luck would have it, the WDO (Waste Diversion Ontario) came out with a scathing report that put the Archipelago as one of the lowest recyclers. Now I know that the users of the Crane Lake site are not bad and are certainly not the cause of that report but as with everything else in life, we get painted with the same brush.

Needless to say, our plea to reestablish the 24 hour access fell on deaf ears.

So, all of a sudden, we were faced with a task of increasing recycling - how do we do that? We all know that a large majority of us recycle faithfully at our urban residences. It's easy to drive down the street on garbage day and see who does not recycle properly and in most locations they pay for that laziness by having to pay for any more than 1 or 2 green bags.

We all know people at the cottage who take the easy way out and don't recycle. How do we get them to do what's right? I will confess that I was one of the proponents for clear bags and here's why:

1. When we were at the recycle facility, we could see trucks coming in and dumping the material for sorting. In a load, there would be some green bags that had to be opened to see if they contained recycle material or household waste. When they had to do this, they deemed the load contaminated and charged the Township a fee of \$117.00/tonne. The facility manager said, "if only they used clear bags, we could see what's in there and not have to charge as contaminated". That made sense. Personally, we have had recycle garbage pails (one for containers and one for paper/cardboard) on our back deck for years and have always used green bags.
2. By mandating the use of clear bags it will be easier for the site attendant to make sure waste is being deposited in the right stream and ensure recycling is done.

The Archipelago has always claimed to be environmentally conscious and this was a major reason for me becoming a Councilor – **take care of the environment and control taxes so that our grandchildren can enjoy what we have enjoyed for 40 years.**

Through this whole education process, I have learned that once our current landfill is full, the next one will be the most expensive undertaking this Township has ever seen. Millions of dollars must be spent, just to meet the provincial regulations and it costs thousands – maybe millions to keep it going. For example, in a new landfill, all the leachate has to be captured and conditioned so as to not contaminate underground aquifers. If we really work at it, we can postpone the closing of our existing site for many, many years and save the ratepayers millions in taxes. There is even technology coming that will allow us to mine our existing site for recyclable material which will further extend the life.

Our family – my wife and I, three daughters, their husbands/significant others and the 2 soon to be 3 grandchildren are committed to recycle as much as we possibly can. That brings me to "**what can we recycle**"? When we were at the recycle plant, I mentioned that the materials that could be recycled at the cottage were different than in urban centers. His comment was "if you can recycle it down south don't be afraid to try and recycle it here. If we can't recycle it, we won't charge for

contamination”. So that’s what we’re going to do. Our daughters own my parent’s old cottage next to ours and we both have three 121 liter, raccoon-proof pails on the back deck. One for household waste, one for glass, metal and plastic containers and one for paper products – all now have clear 121 liter bags in them. We found the cheapest so far at Home Depot 40 bags for \$5.70 or thereabouts. **Small price to pay to help out!**

Council and Staff spend many hours per month on this Waste issue and we’re taking action as best we know how. We never again want to be labeled as one of the worst recycling Municipalities in Ontario.

Friends of Belvedere: Again this year, there are a number of ladies in the area who have formed a group called “Friends of Belvedere”. That’s the Belvedere Heights home in Parry Sound. Rita Kunc of Crane Lake and her sister Helen (from Seguin) are a key part of this group. These ladies have formed the group to raise money for Belvedere through various fund raising initiatives. This group is to Belvedere as a PTA would be to a school and the funds that they raise go to buy equipment and supplies that aid the workers in their day-to-day functions helping the aged. One of their fund raising efforts is to collect empty aluminum beverage cans. Adams Bros in Parry Sound have supplied a container and any monies made from selling the aluminum to recyclers comes back to the group. ! They have asked me to ask you to save your empty aluminum beverage cans and when you’re at the Crane Lake Transfer station deposit them in the special container in front of the recycle bins.

I’m sure you will agree that this is a worthwhile effort and I hope you will join us in helping the ladies in this initiative.

Shoreline Preservation: I am sorry to report that I saw many healthy trees cut down on the shoreline over the winter. Presumably this was done to improve the view of the water. The removal of vegetation from the shoreline for esthetic purposes is simply **wrong!** These plants are nature’s filter and remove nutrients before they get in the water. You must realize that **every** septic system has huge amounts of nutrients released into the weeper bed and **most** of the water you put in the septic returns eventually to the lake laden with nutrients. If you have healthy shoreline vegetation, the amount of nutrients reaching the lake will be minimal as nature intended. Just remember, if and when our lakes turn bad with blue green algae (due to nutrient loading) the lakes will not be useable for many, many years and your properties will be virtually worthless. **We can prevent that!** If we continue to ignore the proper way to treat our shorelines, the Township will be forced to institute bylaws to prevent abuse. It’s in your hands!

Taxes: Shortly, you will be receiving a communication from the TOA regarding this year’s tax. In it you will see that the Township is not raising taxes as a result of controllable costs. The Township is holding the line this year on its controllable costs. Any increase in your taxes this year will be as a result of a significant increase in your assessment or Education tax. Remember, all Municipalities in Ontario have absolutely no control on property assessments. All assessments are done by MPAC (Municipal property Assessment Corporation) which is a non-profit Provincial organization that is funded with your tax dollars.

That’s all for now. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

Phone 705-378-2089
E-mail ianm@vianet.ca

Have a safe, happy summer!
Thanks, Ian Mead

OPA 54
(update as of June 1st.)

Applicant's have submitted an official plan amendment to council (included in this is an environmental assessment). Council at this point has not come to a decision.

Block 17
(update)

The Township (TOA) has been waiting for the applicant (Mr. Kolbuk's) legal counsel to indicate how and when to move forward on the rezoning application. Until the TOA hears from the applicant, nothing will be done with regards to the application. I recently received an email from Wendy Cooper, the Georgian Bay Land Trust's (GBLT) Executive Director and she reiterated that **Block 17** was indeed ongoing and as of right now it is between the **TOA** and the **owner** and that the GBLT has to stay out of it so that they are not seen to be influencing the value or transaction in any way. The property would, however, be a nice fit with its proximity to the Oldfield Lake Reserve. The GBLT may be visited at: www.gbtl.org

Oldfield Lake Reserve

The **EGBSC** is operating a student program this summer and hopefully will provide a couple of days for clean up of the campsite over on Oldfield (Rat) Lake. Should you be witness to any wrong doings over there please advise Carolyn Rymell or John Hackett who keep an eye on this property on behalf of the GBLT. **We are all essentially stewards of this wonderful property.**

Deerhorn Update

I would like to thank Barb and Andy Metelka for their attendance on behalf of the Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association. They involved

themselves in some good work along with Fred Nagy (Crane Lake Cottage Association President), Krys and Tom Stephens (Blackrock Estates) and of course our councilor, Ian Mead. All lobbied on our behalf for 24/7 access to the Crane Lake Transfer Station. Abuse of the 24/7 access and consequent environmental harm prompted the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to oppose the 24/7 access. One concerned cottager put these points to me:

- 1.) **it is important to make sure that the resident taxpayer has access to the facility.**
- 2.) **the transfer station should function so as to limit the impact of bear activity.**
- 3.) **ensure that we minimize the waste that goes to the landfill i.e. Recycle.**

The bottom line is I am not so sure that we are succeeding here....**Time will tell.** In the mean time we should work with the cards that we have been dealt to the best of our abilities. The waste management topic has become such a talked about subject among cottagers that we have just included the **do's and don'ts** as well as the hours of operation in the newsletter even though I am sure you already have copies.

2009 Waste Newsletter

CRANE LAKE TRANSFER STATION

IMPORTANT CHANGES: (EFFECTIVE JUNE 2, 2009)

IDENTIFICATION:

New Township cards will be issued to all ratepayers and will be required to be shown at manned sites.

ENFORCEMENT:

The Township will be increasing enforcement measures through the use of a By-law Enforcement Officer. As well, the Township is in the process of having Part 1 tickets approved by the Province and charges will be laid for those individuals who contravene the By-law.

NEW CONTAINERS:

In an effort to reduce contamination and transportation costs the Township is purchasing new compaction bins in 2009. The new containers will be colour coded with GREEN bins for household garbage, BLUE bins for plastics and tins, and the GREY bins for fibre. As well the Township has purchased a roll-off truck which will now transport the recycling containers to Bracebridge thus eliminating the need for using Muskoka Containerized Services for pick-up and disposal. Hopefully this will eliminate over flow of bins on Holiday weekends.

WASTE DIVERSION:

In order to increase the Townships waste diversion rate, **all household and recycling waste will be required to be disposed of in clear bags** or in your blue box. Ratepayers can obtain clear bags at most grocery and hardware stores in Mactier and Parry Sound. The objective of the Township by moving to clear bags is to ensure the prevention of contamination from occurring in the various waste streams by allowing staff to easily monitor and ensure the correct placement of waste.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW):

Please ensure that any HHW is taken to the MacFarlane depot site in Parry Sound located on MacFarlane Street.

ELECTRONIC WASTE:

In 2009, the Township will be initiating a new waste diversion in conjunction with the Province that will deal with "electronic waste". The first phase of this program will deal with the collection of computers, computer monitors, and televisions at township waste disposal sites. The Township program will run from May to October and a designated structure will be placed at the transfer site.

RE-USE MATERIAL

As well, the Township is looking at the establishment of Re-Use Centres at each location to potentially further increase the waste diversion stream. Please read material at waste site indicating permitted items.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AS THE TOWNSHIP MOVES FORWARD IN DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

Georgian Bay Association (GBA)

GBA news and updates are available at:
www.georgianbay.ca/index.html

Or you may access the GBA as a direct link from the Blackstone Lake Cottage Association website. You may receive your current issue either electronically or if you like it can still be mailed to you via snailmail (Canada Post). There were a couple of complaints regarding notification of the GBA AGM. Unfortunately the GBA was later than normal getting their booklet out this spring due to some last minute April changes. I do not foresee this problem occurring again.

Michael Reddy, from the Pointe au Baril area has replaced **Mary Lee** as the new President, but perhaps of more interest to us as Blackstone Lake cottagers is **Carolyn Rymell** stepping down as a Director of the GBA and **Rob Moos** stepping in for Carolyn. Carolyn has served for many years as Blackstone Lakes representative on the GBA's Board of Director's. She is taking a well – deserved respite from the GBA Board. She has worked tirelessly with the GBA giving little old Blackstone Lake a strong voice as an inland land. **Thank –you Carolyn for the years of work on our behalf.**

We are indeed fortunate to have caring cottage people such as Carolyn and Rob...Here, Here!!

Blackstone Health and Safety With Dr. David Rosen

The emergencies that we face on Blackstone Lake can be summarized by what I call the “5 A’s”.

- 1.) accidents
- 2.) allergic reactions of a severe nature
- 3.) acute abdominal chest pain
- 4.) asthma
- 5.) angina
- 6.) stroke

Anyone who has ‘**Known**’ allergies or asthma or heart disease should make sure they have the appropriate emergency medications at the cottage.

I would suggest that your physician could advise you on what to have on hand. It would be prudent to have a first aid kit that includes these meds if you are taking hiking or canoe trips. If you have relatives or friends visiting I would suggest that you advise them to be sure they have with them any medications that are required for their health (ie. EpiPen, Benadryl, Nitroglycerine and Asthma puffers.). Accidents can often be prevented!

Excessive use of alcohol plays a huge role in boating accidents and fatalities as well as accidents around the cottage. **I urge you and your visitors to drink sensibly and to use life jackets appropriately!**

Blackstone Emergency First Aid Response And Rescue Team.

As of last summer 15 persons have been identified as first aid qualified and wanting to participate as part of a rescue team (if needed) on our lake. At an August meeting held by Dr. Rosen, a group consisting of: Jeff Elliott, Tom Hewitt, Dave McCamus, Sylvia Morwald, Colin McFadyen, John Houghton, Dr. June Kingston and Dr. David Rosen met to discuss first aid as a first responder. Another meeting has since been held, whereby an updated map is now being created of the lake depicting all cottages with their **civic lot numbers, fire pump locations, fire wardens , AED (automatic external defibrillator) / first aid equipment locations and emergency first aid responders with telephone information.** This new map will be laminated and to be kept near your phone in case of emergency. **I** is strongly recommended that you keep a copy in your boat also.

The map will be provided to you by the Blackstone Lake Cottage Association and be distributed by the **Fire Warden** overseeing your section of the lake (our target for this is early to mid July.)As was mentioned last year, your civic address should be visible from the water at the end of your dock making your cottage easily identifiable in an emergency situation. Many of you have already acquired this signage. However, there are still many who still have not.

As an association we feel very strongly about getting this done this year. For those of you who have already placed civic address numbers at the end of your dock you are to be commended and for those who have not yet done so, please look towards getting this done. Signage can be ordered by contacting Blackstone Lake cottager, **David McDonald** at: david@quiptec.com or by contacting **Mike Laver** at **Bay Graphics** in Parry Sound, (705-746-6067). Costs are approximately \$20.00. (red would be desirable for a fire pump location and **green** for all others). In order to help the **Blackstone Lake Emergency Response System** work as efficiently as it can the association recognizes its importance and is willing to subsidize to facilitate 100 % participation here. Let's look to having this done by our 2009 August AGM.

Everyone recognizes that the success of cardiac resuscitation depends on:

- 1.) recognition and suspicion by the individual that he or she should call for help.
- 2.) the availability of equipment needed.
- 3.) Communication lines so that help arrives as quickly as possible.

It is important to recognize that a rescue does **NOT** replace the Province's EMS services. However, that does not mean we cannot be of major assistance in an emergency situation. The kinds of emergencies that are most likely to arise are not life threatening and there may be time to call **911**.

An emergency situation occurs – What to do?

- Call 911
- Call Sylvia (378- 2352)
- Call Fire Warden or other team member who may be on the lake. The telephone cascade can be started! One gets the **equipment**, one or more **head to the cottage** in question. **Remember** doing **CPR** immediately increases the survival rate if an individual is unconscious. Ideally every cottage should have at least one person who has the basic CPR training.

- One person should meet Parry Sound EMS at Angler's Inn Marina (for water access) or at the road / driveway entrance (for road access) thus ensuring no time lost finding a cottage.

At both the August and recent June meetings there was considerable discussion about the equipment, particularly the **defibrillator**. Recognizing that **time is of the essence** there was a consensus that a

second defibrillator was needed for the south and possibly a third for the middle portion of the lake. **Tom Hewitt** will initiate discussion pertaining to the south end of Blackstone and Dr. Rosen's cottage was mentioned as a possible location for the central part of Blackstone. Basic first aid gear similar to what is kept at Angler's Inn would be also positioned at the Rosen cottage and kept in a container on their dock. We will attempt to also acquire another backboard to be kept at the south end of Blackstone (**location of where possible defibrillator and backboard for the south end of lake still to be decided.**)

Dr. Rosen also suggested that first aid equipment should be available at August AGM for all and briefly review the use for the membership. (It will be available for your perusal before the meeting on August 2nd at the Kammerer Cottage. (lot 64).

As a reminder....**Emergency Equipment** for the lake is presently kept at **Angler's Inn** with **Sylvia Morwald (378-2352)**. The equipment consists of:

- 1.) Zoll AED Plus Defibrillator
- 2.) 1 backboard including tie down straps
- 3.) 1 adult and 1 child's adjustable neck brace
- 4.) full assortment of other first aid supplies
- 5.) benadryl
- 6.) ventilyn and puffer

NOTE :If you are a physician or nurse or health care provider who has already indicated or just now would like to be part of a rescue team please advise Dr. David Rosen at: rosend@rogers.com as it will be important to note on the emergency response lake map depicting addresses, fire pumps , emergency first aid responders and emergency equipment. Also should there be other private defibrillators on the lake perhaps advise Dr. Rosen.

Boating Safety

Just for a quick review: The following is a brief breakdown of the proof of competency required to operate a power boat. Proof of competency can take 1 of 3 forms:

- 1.) a pleasure craft operator card
- 2.) proof of having completed a boating safety course in Canada (or equivalent USA course for Americans prior to April 1st, 1999.)

3.) a completed rental boat checklist

Date at which competency is required :

- all operators born after April 1st, 1983
proof of competency required onboard at this time
- all operators of craft under 4 meters in length (including PWC)
proof of competency required onboard at this time
- **All operators require proof of competency onboard by Sept. 15th of 2009. YES, this year!**

Note : a couple of points were recently clarified by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) with GBA representatives.

1.) **US citizens Will Require** a Boat Operator License if they have a boat registered in Canada or leave it here. The only US folks who won't need a license are those who bring a boat up for 3 weeks or less, or those who rent a boat in Canada. And

2.) The OPP will be checking for a Boat Operators License and ownership registration. If you lack either you may be issued a ticket for up to **\$300.00**. Many of us have not been in the habit of carrying the ownership registration. You may have an older boat and might have lost it or the boat may have changed hands. It is suggested that you obtain a copy – there is no fee! You can do this by going to a Service Canada Office or you might try their website. The Service Canada office in Parry Sound is next to the Post Office and according to Rob Moos it is very quiet! Robs wife, Sandy was able to get registration for both her boats, one 22years old and the other 60 years old. So we have no excuses. Apparently the OPP has been issuing tickets in the Parry Sound area for failure to have a valid registration! For more information visit :

www.boatingsafety.gc.ca

Blackstone Lake Quick Notes

- Government has been reviewing the mining act. The new act introduced in the legislature in early May would prohibit staking mining claims on private property south of the French River. Thus the minerals rights under your cottage property would be safe! The amendments to the act have not yet passed but are anticipated to.
- Carolyn Rymell has looked after pheromone trapping to monitor and forecast hemlock looper and gypsy moth populations. She has done this since 2004 with the numbers suggesting that we have the

healthiest colony of loopers in 2008. for more info visit : www.bioforest.ca and check out TOA Forest Health Update /2008.

- Marine and small engine repairs, contact Mike Steele @ Crane Lake Resort. Shop tel. 378-1471.
- Property Assessments on Blackstone Lake :
 - Road access lots went up 60 % on average
 - Water access lots went up 33 % on average
 - Vacant lots went up 41 % on average
- For those of you who did appeal your assessments I would be curious to know how you fared with your appeal – perhaps you could drop me a note : colin.mc.fadyen@hotmail.com
- You are encouraged to join CAPTR (Coalition After Property Reform) www.captr.org
- WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers after Fair Taxation). FOCA,s executive director, Terry Rees is now the official spokesman and administrative head of Wraft www.wraft.com. This organization continues to do some very good work on behalf of all cottagers. They are a good watchdog for both MPAC and our Provincial Government.
- Camp of the Deaf – racing back on for the summer of 2009. In a change of events Seguin Township went back on their April position of no motorized racing. Motorized racing as it turns out has not been allowed to take place on the Camp of the Deaf property as it is split- zoned as a camping establishment. Proper zoning is ultimately required by the camp to allow racing on the property and this appears to have been waived (at least for this summer) by Seguin Township. Noise consultants will be brought in to monitor racing which gets under way on June 6th, 2009. The Blackstone Lake Cottage Association has let Seguin Township know its position and should you wish to express your thoughts please contact Chris Madej, director of planning services at: cmadej@seguin.ca or Mayor David Conn at : davidc@vianet.ca
- Outdoors card – is required with the appropriate fishing license to fish in Ontario 18 years to 65 years of age, visit: www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Letsfish for details.
- Structural modifications planned for the Crane Lake Dam. All sounds positive as the MOE has resolved issues. Construction planned for the fall (when water level is normally lowered. The dam will be able to handle what they call a 100 Yr. storm plus lake levels will remain more

constant at 198.56 meters above sea level. This is all good for Blackstone Lake.

- Waterfront 2009 handbook available from FOCA – BLCA members are receiving one with this newsletter. Barb Metelka has a few extra copies. Drop her a line should you wish to have a one bmetelka@gmail.com otherwise copy will be available at AGM.
- Serious bear problem – call 911. All other bear info visit : www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Bearwise/index.html
- Ensure that your smoke alarms do indeed work!
- Community Board at Angler's Inn was taken to protect it from the elements over the winter months. It has been put back up for the 2009 summer season. Should you have something that you would like displayed inside please seek out one of the following **KEY** holders to access : Dave McCamus, Barb Metelka, Sylvia Morwald or Dave McFadyen.
- Biodiversity at the cottage ;
Reduce your ecological footprint where you can.
Reduce your energy use.

www.energy.gov.on.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=conservation.tips

- Avoid buying disposable products, reuse products, containers and bags whenever you can and recycle those that you cannot use.
- Get involved in biodiversity conservation by planting native flowers and trees in your gardens, avoid using pesticides. Involve yourself in community environmental conservation and awareness efforts - small efforts really do help.

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity for more info.

- **Your Blackstone Lake Cottage Association is looking for New Leadership.....**We are looking for a new **President** and **Secretary/Treasurer** to oversee the association during the next couple of years. Both Barb and I have been privileged to work and interact with so many truly wonderful and caring cottagers over the past few years. It has been an opportunity to give back a little to the place that we so cherish in our hearts. Over the next 2 months please give some consideration towards assuming either of these positions. There are many good things happening as well as some items that warrant keeping a watchful eye. Contact either Barb at: bmetelka@gmail.com or myself at:

colin.mc.fadyen@hotmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.
Thank-you.

The 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This years AGM is to be graciously hosted by **Bob and Leslie Kammerer** on Sunday August 2nd at 10:00. The cottage lake map shows their civic address as # 64 located on the upper east third side of Blackstone Lake. Their cottage is water access and there is a fairly large dock, however, rafting up may be necessary depending on numbers. Consider boating over with your neighbours? Please bring a folding chair, your coffee mug and a snack such as muffins, cookies or fresh fruit to enjoy with a coffee between 9:30 and 10:00 as you chat with neighbours. Familiarize yourself with Blackstone Lake First Aid equipment either before or after the meeting. This is an important AGM for all cottagers as a full draft of the *Lake Plan* is to be given out for your perusal and comment.

Have a great summer!

Colin McFadyen

President, Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association

Cottage : 378-2252

Home : 705-835-2035

Email : colin.mc.fadyen@hotmail.com

**NOTICE OF BLACKSTONE LAKE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009**

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2009

LOCATION: KAMMERER COTTAGE (DIRECTIONS IN NEWSLETTER)

TIME: COFFEE, SNACKS & DISPLAY OF SAFETY GEAR FROM 9:30 - 10:00am
MEETING FROM 10:00am TO NOON

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

For information please phone Colin McFadyen Cottage: 705-378-2252

Home: 705-835-2035



**BLACKSTONE LAKE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$90.00

Dues include membership in the Georgian Bay Association and FOCA

Please make your cheque payable to ***Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association*** and bring it to the AGM, or mail it with this application to:

Barbara Metelka, Secretary Treasurer
R.R. # 2, 13652 Fourth Line
Acton, Ontario
L7J 2L8

I am becoming a member for the first time (please check one): No Yes

Please complete and/or update your information:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL/ZIP CODE: _____

PROVINCE/STATE: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: HOME: _____

BUSINESS: _____

COTTAGE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____