

THE TWIN SISTER LAKES
COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

**“VIEW THROUGH THE CULVERT
2008 EDITION ”**



The newsletter of the Twin Sister Lakes Ratepayers' Association.

**Welcome to the
2008 Newsletter:**

**THE ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING IS
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 16th AT
10:00 A.M. AT
THE CULVERT.
HOT DOGS,
DRINKS AND
HOT COFFEE
PROVIDED.
(Please note change
in date from
previous years.)**

And, if you want to hear more about the moratorium on cottage property tax assessment ending, come to the meeting for more information.

**Please bring a dessert
to share. Don't
forget your chair!**

**WEB SITE FOR
TSLRA**

**Did you hear about
the break-ins on East
Twin Sister Lake in
June? If not, you have
not been checking into
the Twin Sister Lakes
Ratepayers'
Association Web page,
maintained by Kirk**

**Johnson. For further
information and
updates about the
lakes, please go to
TSLRA.org**

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE:**

Please see back page!

*-- Jack Watkins
President
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**ONCE AGAIN, WE
NEED ENTRIES FOR
THE TWIN SISTERS
LAKES PHOTO
CONTEST**

At the 2002 Annual General Meeting the Executive introduced the idea of a photo contest at Twin Sister Lakes. Each year we ask all lake residents to participate in this great adventure. We need you to submit your best photos in one, two, or each of the following three categories:

- **FUN AT THE LAKE**
- **PETS OR WILDLIFE AT THE LAKE**
- **SCENIC VIEWS OF THE LAKE**

Photos can be submitted to Director Bonnie Danes up to and including the morning before the Annual General Meeting. The photos can be on any size of formatting and they will be judged just prior to the Annual Meeting.

The winning photos and photos receiving honourable mention in each category will be displayed at the Annual General Meeting. One of the submitted photos will be chosen as "Best Over-All Photo" for that year. Your photo will be framed and a recognition plaque will be mounted on the frame. The photo will be returned to the winner for hanging at your cottage.

Like all endeavours, this will only work if you participate. The photos must be taken in the current 2007-2008 year. You cannot submit photos from previous years. This is a fun thing to do and we hope that people do participate to show everyone those special photos from our lake.

Computer printed photos are acceptable since many people have now opted for digital photography. Computer enhanced photos create an unfair advantage and we ask that the photos be submitted in their original format.

Please bring your photos to the Annual General Meeting or submit your photos to Bonnie Danes or any member of the Lake Executive.

The Environment

Greetings Cottagers,

We are all enjoying another great summer season. Our beautiful lake environment is

once again in full bloom and alive with wildlife!
Our new fisheries and wildlife program, which included additional water tests, showed that the overall health of our lake ecosystem is good. Ammonia, pH and Nitrate tests were done, which provided us with information about the overall water quality and health of our watershed. These additional tests showed that the marsh and swampy areas in our ecosystem are able to filter biological and organic wastes, balance natural acids and carbon dioxide levels. E-coli testing will be done this year and continue once every 2 years. This continues to test overall water safety and address any health concerns. Beginning this year, I will include test for Giardiasis known as 'Beaver Fever', in response to the increase in beaver activity on the East Lake. I will also change the additional water tests this year and examine Nitrate and Phosphate levels instead, to measure the impact of dish and/or laundry detergent use on our lake.

I continue to encourage us all to keep our eyes open for any purple loosestrife. Your continued help is ensuring this invasive plant stays within control and our wetland areas remain healthy. Now, while the plant is still flowering, is the best time to implement our control techniques. If you see the plant you are encouraged to cut the flowering segment off or cut the entire stock down to the water/ground level. If the plant is small enough, you can pull the plant and remove the entire root system to prevent the plant from re-growing. The plants can be burned thoroughly or disposed of in securely tied plastic bags. The key is to prevent the seeds from spreading.

Thank you for your continued support and concern for our magnificent cottage haven.

Melanie Hicks
TSLRA Director of Fisheries and Wildlife

Ramblings by Barb:

Last week my lap top computer died. I took it to

Geeks Galore on Highway 7, where owner, Hogan, simultaneously ate his sandwich, talked on the phone with his mom and fixed my computer. While he was doing all those things, I checked my email on the free internet service. For a donation to a local charity, anyone can use the ultra high speed internet at Geeks Galore. In a weak moment last year, I volunteered to write the newsletter. Am happy to have my lap-top in working order and for next year would be delighted to hear from other cottagers with thoughts, ideas, stories, comments.

After many years working as a nurse, I retired, but immediately began working part-time relief. I am lucky enough therefore to spend most of the summer at the cottage this year. What does one do when they have the summer to spend in Shangri-La. While the weather has not been dry and sunny so far, it has nevertheless been a wonderful summer. One day a week I play golf in Stirling with a woman's league, where everyone is friendly and the hillside views are spectacular. Another morning I play with a women's league in Madoc. What a lovely 9 hole course that is. The rest of the time you can find me kayaking, swimming or spending time with my three children and two grandchildren and partner Ron, on the dock on Long Lake or walking along the road swatting mosquitoes, deer flies and horse flies.

Recently a neighbour dropped by to say hi. He was literally quaking in his boots.

He had had a close encounter with a speeding car and had to drive off the road to avoid a crash. Please remember to drive slowly and carefully when driving on our narrow country roads.

In June I held a mini reunion here with ten nursing classmates from way-back. For weeks I was anxious, as the road was flooded due to major beaver activity. On the way home one of my guests drove right into the pond, wedging her right wheels into the muck, early on a Sunday morning. My friend wanted to get the Ontario Motor League ASAP. However, I knew that was an unlikely scenario. After making numerous phone calls I realized few people are home on a Sunday morning at Twin Sister Lakes. To the rescue came Dave Hughes, who with his wife, owns a dairy farm on Cordova Road. He arrived in minutes with his pick-up truck and chains and soon my friend was on her way back to the big city in her red convertible. Dave's comment: "That's what neighbours are for." Constantly I am reminded how lucky we are to have neighbours such as Dave.

This summer there is a lot of activity on the lakes. Cory is building a new home across the bay. Chander is erecting a beautiful cottage next door to me. Welcome to the new families who have arrived. A fond farewell to Marilyn Pomeroy and family, cottagers for many years who graciously and generously lent their property year after year for the Annual General Meeting of the Twin Sister

Lakes Ratepayers' Association.

This has definitely been a summer for viewing wild animals. Maybe they like the above average rainfall for June and July. Former cottager, Moe McAteer saw a black bear just a kilometer down the road. A porcupine was waddling up the lane just the other day. The two loons have returned to each lake, but no babies have been reported. Almost every time I drive to town I see deer along the road. And for the first time I have seen numerous big black/brown water snakes basking in the sun, although I have been told many times they have often been viewed by others.

One day we stopped by the South Pacific Chinese Restaurant and Antique Shop on Highway 7 between Madoc and Marmora for lunch. The food was fresh and tasty and a nice alternative to bar-b-ques on the deck!

Another day (in Madoc again!), we picked strawberries just off Highway 7. They were truly the best strawberries I had ever tasted. The raspberries will be ready mid July or a little later. For slightly more money, you can buy your berries already picked. If you pick your own berries, make sure you move the flag to avoid the evil eye of a lurking supervisor ☺

And finally, when you want to shop for an interesting gift, drop in at the ***Porch and Parlour*** on the main street of Marmora. Thank you to Julie Maynes who has each year

donated a lovely door prize for our AGM.

“The Cottage Bible” by Gerry Mackie and Laura Taylor, The Boston Mills Press, 2007

This is a terrific book, containing interesting and useful information for cottagers. The authors live in Guelph, Ontario. Did you know that Whirligig beetles are tiny beetles (less than 3-5 cm long) that swim rapidly in circles on the surface of the water with their flattened, oar-like legs. Their eyes are divided into two parts on each side of the head; the upper half is for viewing above the water line, watching out for predators. The lower eye is for viewing below the water line, searching for prey. Wouldn't that be handy?

This summer I have been picking handfuls of wild strawberries and raspberries around the cottage. These and other berries are clearly described in the book, with delightful photos. Did you know you can make tea with the leaves of the “Virginia strawberry”? Use only fresh or fully dried leaves as wilted leaves contain toxins. The leaves are rich in vitamins C and minerals and professed to cure all kinds of maladies, “including insanity, tuberculosis, diarrhea and skin problems”. Numerous other wild, edible plants and flowers are listed with photos.

Other topics are “What's in an average glass of lake water?” While we are very

lucky to have extra pure water on our lakes, never drink lake water. Boiling water kills cysts such as Giardiasis, which can cause “Beaver Fever”. “Anyone drinking lake water is consuming pretty much what fish and ducks consume. So before you go drinking with the fish, you should know how potent a brew you may be imbibing.living, dead and decomposed plankton consisting mostly of rotifers, crustaceans, protists, algae, bacteria and fungi. All are essential parts of the lake ecosystem, ... and can be divided up into the friendly, the nasty and the hostile.”

Birds: you might want to know the difference between a crow and a raven. Crows go caw caw and ravens go wonk wonk. Ravens are four times the size of crows, have a different flight pattern and different-shaped tail. Unfortunately space does not allow for inclusion of all the interesting facts detailed in this engrossing book. But if you enjoy reading about things from docks to woodpeckers, visit your library or nearest book store.

Bill Heaven

I was so sorry to hear that Bill passed away in June, 2008. I first met Bill in 1992 when we were both on the executive of the TSLRA. Bill, who served on the executive for many years, was always friendly and full of helpful information and suggestions. Our sincere condolences to Dorothy and family. Bill will be missed by cottagers on both lakes.

Rick Orchard

Rick Orchard was a relatively new cottager on East Twin Sister Lake when he cheerfully agreed to be on the TSLRA Executive as a director and newsletter editor. Sadly, Rick died last summer on July 22nd, just days before his 49th birthday. I would just like to let his wife Dana, and children Stewart and Grace know that our thoughts are with them. I for one have many happy memories of Rick sitting on his front porch, enjoying the view on a lake he loved. Please see the TSLRA web page for a tribute to Rick.

Membership fees

The association is asking that once again cottagers contribute \$15 per family to the cost of running the association. These fees help offset the cost of water testing, printing the newsletter and other association activities on your behalf. Please bring your contribution to the annual meeting in August or mail them to Janet Watkins c/o Twin Sisters Lakes Ratepayers Association, 762 Pinewood Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9K 1L4.

We'd like to put together an e-mail alert list. Please send your email address to: barbcraig@rogers.com

The following is the only reply to Melanie's letter re: inconvenient hours at the Garbage Dump on Station Road. (see 2007 Newsletter).

Good Morning Ms. Hicks:

This is a short note to advise you that Council received your letter dated July 11, 2007 at the last regular Council meeting held Tuesday, August 7, 2007.

I wish to advise that Council has referred this matter to the CAO Mr. Ronald Chittick for further investigation and feasibility. Once Mr. Chittick has had time to complete his investigation, you will be informed of Councils decision regarding the matter.

I trust this information is of some assistance to you.

Yours truly,

*Judy Durbatch
Administrative Assistant*

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If you'd like to submit a letter, comment or an article for the next newsletter, please send it to barbcraig@rogers.com

**COVER
Rowan Kerala Craig enjoying a summer day on her grandmother's dock. Photo by Barb.**

