

## Battersea Loughborough Lake Association 2009 Newsletter



### President's Message (by Nona Mariotti)

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank retiring Board members Diane and John Seymour for almost two decades of dedication. John as Treasurer since the early 90s and Diane as President for almost a decade have been instrumental in the continued growth of the Association. Their many volunteer hours are gratefully acknowledged and they will be missed as icons on this lake. We wish them the best in their new endeavors.

As your new President, I hope collectively we can continue to expand our knowledge of our historical lake and join together to recognize and work toward the objectives of the Association:

- a. To promote conservation of water, fish, and wild life in the Battersea Loughborough area and the natural beauty and advantages of the area consistent with the orderly development thereof.
- b. To maintain clear water, good fishing and water safety in the area.
- c. To obtain and maintain adequate police and fire protection in the area.

As one of its services to members, the Association continues to collect water samples for testing each year and the results can be viewed at [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake\\_partner/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake_partner/index.htm).

Whether you are a long time resident or new to the area, I know you will be a vigilant care giver and protector of all that Loughborough Lake has to offer. Cottagers, fulltime residents, and businesses working as a community will ensure we have a healthy lake to pass onto the next generation. Your Board of Directors thanks you for enhancing our Association and encourages you to invite others to join and participate in the Association. We welcome new directors, new faces, and new ideas.

Please join us at our annual general meeting to hear the exciting plans for Elbow Lake and for Guerley Lake on the Freeman property. Do you know that this area is an important part of the Frontenac Arch? Come, bring a friend or neighbour, and learn more!

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**Annual General Meeting** of the  
Battersea Loughborough Lake Association  
Thursday August 6, 7:00 p.m.  
Storrington Hall, Battersea Rd., Sunbury

Guest Speaker: Gary Bell of the Nature  
Conservancy of Canada (NCC) on the  
Frontenac Arch and its connection to  
Loughborough Lake

For details and background,  
see the article by Gary Bell on page 8

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**A Tribute to the Seymours** (by Diane Marantz)

Here's a little ditty to John and Diane,  
Two kids who kept the lake the best that one can.  
Oh yeah, life goes on,  
But it won't be the same when they are gone.  
(with apologies to John Cougar Mellencamp)

The Battersea Loughborough Lake Association is losing two of its most valued members with the resignations from the Board of Diane and John Seymour. They have taken the bold step of relinquishing their glorious spot on our lake and are opting for the hustle and bustle of city life in downtown Kingston.

Diane and John have been cornerstones of the Board of Directors for many years and members of the Association for many more. John has been Treasurer "forever" and Diane was elected President in 2000 due in part to her campaign promise to provide jelly beans for every board meeting. During Diane's presidency, the membership grew by over 80% – from 98 in 2000 to 178 in 2009. With John's careful financial management, the Association's reserve fund has grown steadily to well over \$5,000.

During their Board tenure, the Seymours dealt with a multitude of issues concerning the lake including the new official plan for South Frontenac, septic surveys, burn by-laws, lake trout stocking, creel surveys, and water testing. Under their leadership the Association has made substantial financial contributions to the upkeep of the Perth Road boat ramp and parking area and for outfitting the Fire Department's Fire & Rescue boat, as well as numerous donations to local events, festivals and memorials.

As many of you know, Diane announced her retirement regularly over the last few years but her sense of duty and responsibility to the association and the lake kept her at the helm until a suitable replacement stepped forward. (But we all secretly think that selling the house was a rather extreme way to get her message across!)

We want to express our thanks and appreciation for all that the Seymours have contributed to the wellbeing of our lake. Under their stewardship the Association has grown and prospered and is in a better position to face the challenges of the future. We wish John and Diane all the best in their new home and extend an open invitation to attend any of the Association's events. After all,

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## Fishery Update (by Karl Montgomery)



From *lolakevu's photostream*, and one of many fine photos at the Association's web site at [www.loughboroughlake.org](http://www.loughboroughlake.org).

Remember the whitefish? Decades ago Loughborough Lake was renowned not only for its plentiful and enormous lake trout but also for a seemingly endless numbers of whitefish, another highly sought after cold water species. This large silvery bottom feeding fish looks similar to a herring but grows up to 26 inches in length and 15 pounds in weight. Whitefish populations crashed over the years, probably due to overfishing, the introduction of smelt and alewife into the lake, and competition from huge stockings of lake trout. The last whitefish was reportedly caught in the mid-80s.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is proposing to reintroduce this once popular fish in the West basin. As the whitefish is considered to be extinct from the lake, this

action would likely require the MNR to complete an environmental assessment before proceeding. The heavy stocking of lake trout, year-round trout season, and now the reintroduction of whitefish, are all part of MNR efforts to exploit Loughborough as a key recreational lake with the intent of easing fishing pressure on other lakes. The MNR will be seeking our input and lake residents and users will need to weigh the benefits of seeing an historic species return versus the impact of more public fishing pressure on the lake environment.

A hot issue in our fisheries management zone 18 has been the proposed and long overdue catch limits on sunfish. Last year the Ministry tried to impose limits but backed down due to the outcry from Eastern Ontario lodge owners who claimed that it negatively affected their business. I understand this is not a great concern for Loughborough Lake businesses but in other areas customers expect to take home huge quantities of sunfish. In an effort to protect this important part of a balanced ecosystem the MNR is holding open houses and conducting surveys to establish a catch limit. One proposal is a daily personal catch limit of 50 with a possession limit of 50, while another would see a possession limit as high as 200! Just how many sunfish can you eat?

The public comment period will be over when you read this, but you can learn about the importance of sunfish to our lake at: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/268510.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/2ColumnSubPage/268510.html).

**Latest on fish stocking:** 5,000 larger than average (6" – 8") trout fingerlings were stocked this May.

### Too much of a good thing?

Will the benefits of trout stocking and the return of the whitefish be offset by an adverse impact on the lake environment from increased fishing?

**Attend the AGM** on August 6 and give us your thoughts on the future of fishing in Loughborough Lake.

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## A Primer on Boating Safety

from the Canada Safe Boating Guide, available at  
<http://www.boaterexam.com/canada/education/default-en.aspx>

Boating is one of the many enjoyable activities on Loughborough Lake. However there can be dangers associated with boating and there are regulations, both in place and upcoming, designed to ensure safe boating.

### Are you aware that:

1. By September 15, 2009, all operators of pleasure craft, fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes, must have proof of an operator competency. This proof can be a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, proof of having completed a boating safety course prior to April 1, 1999, or a completed rental boat safety checklist (for power driven rental vessels). Currently all operators born after April 1, 1983 or all operators of motorized pleasure craft less than 4 metres (13' 1") require this proof.
2. The fine for operating a pleasure craft without the Pleasure Craft Operator Card can be \$250 plus administration charges.
3. All people aboard a pleasure craft – powered or not – must have a Canadian approved, appropriately sized, life jacket or PFD, in good condition. The fine for missing or inappropriate floatation devices can be \$200 per incident.
4. Other potential fines include \$250 for careless vessel operation and \$100 for speeding.
5. There is zero tolerance for booze and boating.
6. Personal watercraft – Seadoos and the like – may not be operated by anyone under the age of 16, regardless of supervision.

Have a fun-filled summer of boating on Loughborough Lake, but know the rules and abide by them.

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## Second Fire & Rescue Boat Needs Rescuing (by Gordon Marantz)

The first fire department boat was acquired a few years ago and has been very effective according to South Frontenac Chief Rick Chesebrough. It is stored at the Sunbury fire hall and services all lakes in the area. While fire crews usually can't reach island locations in time to put out structure fires, the boat has proved its worth in fighting island grass fires and in medical emergencies as well as providing assistance to the OPP and in "boating incidents". This boat has also enabled fire fighters to patrol the islands on the various lakes to check on the condition of address signs, which are necessary for effective 911 emergency service.

Plans to acquire a second boat for South Frontenac Fire and Rescue have, however, been placed on hold. In response to an initiative from the Greater Bobs & Crowe Lake Association, South Frontenac had agreed to obtain the boat so long as the various lake associations could raise the necessary funding, which was estimated at \$20,000. By early March only a little over \$11,000 had been raised while the estimated cost of the acquisition had risen to between \$28,000 and \$30,000.

While the lake associations continue to fund raise, an added problem, according to Chief Chesebrough, is that none of the fire halls in the Township have adequate storage – not only for the new boat but also for the truck that would pull the boat to its launch location. Storing each piece of equipment at a separate location would create unreasonable delays in responding to calls. It is also important that the equipment be stored at a fire station that has a sufficient number of volunteers attached to it to generate a crew large enough to man the boat. Given a response ratio of one-third, a fire hall with 35 firefighters can expect 10 to 12 volunteers to respond.

### Triple Threat:

Funding it  
Storing it  
Crewing it

Chief Chesebrough suggests that although the new Fire and Rescue Boat may not become a reality for some time there are other things that can be done to increase the level of safety for residents. He looks forward to providing a broad based fire safety and emergency educational program that would be delivered by teams of existing volunteers. Such a program would deal with safety measures, including smoke detectors and regular battery checking and replacement and encouraging the pooling of funds to purchase a portable water pump that could service more than one property. Since medical emergency calls are very frequent the program would also deal with CPR, and first aid. In addition, residents would be encouraged to have a medical kit in every home.

### Fire Calls

The Chief also provided some sobering statistics on response times in rural areas. He explained that the standard response time, as prescribed by the Fire Marshall's office, is 3-5 minutes in urban areas and 5-7 minutes in the suburbs, but can be from 15-45 minutes in rural areas. Response times can be affected by how a 911 call is made. If a land line is used, the call is answered by OPP operators in North Bay or Orillia who can identify the source of the call and direct it immediately to the correct local dispatcher. The dispatcher in turn sets off the tone to alert volunteer fire fighters, who respond to the fire hall and then proceed, with the equipment, to the fire location. This accounts for the significant time lapse in rural responses.

But if the call is made from a cell phone there is no way of knowing where it will go. The operator receiving the call has, at present, no way of knowing where the call originates. **To avoid delay**, those calling should specify they are trying to reach the Kingston Fire & Rescue dispatcher for the Township of South Frontenac.

## Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Web Site

Report from *Bob Fugler*, Webmaster, Email [webmaster@loughboroughlake.org](mailto:webmaster@loughboroughlake.org).

At our website [www.loughboroughlake.org](http://www.loughboroughlake.org), you will find:

- Copies of our annual newsletters
- Notice of upcoming meetings
- Photos of the lake
- A comments and discussion section to share local issues and activities of general interest
- Web links to local, provincial, and federal bodies that affect and regulate activities on the lake.

We continue to look for new photos of the lake and its surroundings. Please help by sending in photos (and identifying notes). Please forward comments, suggestions, and photos to the email address above.

## We Are an International Association

A recent analysis provided by Association Treasurer, Bob Fugler, reveals that our members are widely scattered geographically. Within Canada, we have members from places such as Toronto, Niagara Falls, Mississauga, Oakville, and Whitby. But we also have 15% of our membership from south of the border (that is, the Canada-U.S. border, not the one between South Frontenac and Kingston). That is nothing new, however, as is evident from reading the 1963 Act of Incorporation for this Association. While the founding members include a number from this immediate area, they also include people from Syracuse and Rochester, in New York State, and from Dayton, Ohio.

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## A New Neighbour on the Lake (by Karl Montgomery)

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the largest not for profit conservation organization in Canada, is in the process of purchasing a large tract of land with shoreline on the lake.

The property, presently owned by the Freeman family of Battersea, consists of 640 acres of rugged undeveloped land surrounding Guerley Lake and includes lengthy shoreline on the south shore of the East basin. Following its mandate of purchasing private lands to protect biodiversity in key areas, the NCC has identified this land as an important part of the Frontenac Arch which runs from the Algonquin Highlands to the Adirondacks in New York. Protected lands within the Arch include the Frontenac and Charleston Lake Provincial Parks, the St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Queen's University Opinicon Lake facility and the former Hewlett Packard property on the North Shore Road.

This property will not become public land and the NCC does not encourage visits which may disrupt planned monitoring and research projects. The Nature Conservancy is still fund raising to complete the purchase. Learn more about this exciting purchase from Gary Bell of the NCC, guest speaker at our AGM. The NCC web site is [www.natureconservancy.ca](http://www.natureconservancy.ca).

For more on the Frontenac Arch and the work of the NCC, see the article by Gary Bell on page 8

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## Building a Bridge for Conservation

by Gary P. Bell, Eastern Ontario Program Manager, Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Frontenac Arch is like a biodiversity bridge across the Canada – US Border. The Arch is the southern extension of the granitic rocks of the Canadian Shield that provides a critical habitat connection between the Algonquin Highlands region of Ontario and the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. It is a key North-South migratory and dispersal corridor for birds and other animals and is one of the most biologically diverse areas in Ontario, particularly rich in reptile, bird, and plant species. The Arch is an important area of ecological overlap between the southern Carolinian Forest Zone and northern mixed forest systems. Many significant plant and animal species are found here, including the threatened Eastern Ratsnake, threatened Stinkpot turtle, endangered American Butternut, as well as the Cerulean Warbler and the Five-lined Skink, both species of special concern.

The distinctness and richness of the Frontenac Arch have drawn attention from a wide audience. From Frontenac Provincial Park to the Thousand Islands the area has attracted people from both Canada and the North-eastern United States as a recreation destination since the late 1800's. The area has been designated as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve and the Rideau Waterway, which runs through the Arch, was recently designated a World Heritage Site. Numerous conservation groups have focused on the Frontenac Arch for its wildlife connectivity importance between Algonquin and the Adirondacks, giving rise to a conservation consortium called A2A.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Canada's largest private land conservation organization, completed a Conservation Plan for the Frontenac Arch in 2007. The plan identifies strategic actions necessary to conserve the species and habitats found within the Frontenac Arch, sets land protection, land management, and fundraising targets.

The main threat to the Frontenac Arch is the fragmentation of existing habitat for residential and recreational development. One of NCC's main strategies in maintaining this landscape is through acquiring and protecting large properties with intact forest cover. NCC has an opportunity to protect the 630-acre Freeman property approximately 15 miles north of Kingston, Ontario. This property was identified as a high priority for protection in NCC's Frontenac Arch Conservation Plan because of its



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diverse and intact habitats, and rare species. Almost 25% of this property is comprised of lakes and wetlands including Guerley Lake - a small, deep, clear lake that is wholly contained within the boundaries of the property. The property also includes 1 km of shoreline on Loughborough Lake. The Freeman property is adjacent to a 60-acre (24-hectare) parcel of undesignated Crown Land with significant shoreline and including two islands on Loughborough Lake.

NCC has raised almost \$1.1 million for the project but has only until November to raise the remaining \$120,000 of the project costs to be able to complete the transaction. Anyone interested in making a contribution can contact Hugh Bennett at [hugh.bennett@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:hugh.bennett@natureconservancy.ca) or at (613) 243-2502. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is a registered charitable organization and all donations towards this project are tax deductible.

## Loughborough Lake Bridge (by Nona Mariotti)

For more than 100 years, there has been a bridge across Loughborough Lake and the history of that bridge is intertwined with the history of this Association. (A key reference for this article is Inverary Women's Institute, *Tweedsmuir History*, Compilation Commenced May 8, 1962, pp. 54-63)

### The Way Things Were

Our special late summer trip on the lake was to venture from the East Basin to the "Big" lake in our cedar strip boat powered by the old burgundy 9.5 Johnson. I'm pretty sure all seven of us weren't with mom and dad but I do know for sure the boat was overloaded by today's standards. The fun of it all was seeing everyone on the lake and having to stop while dad spoke to the majority of them. It amazes me as an adult, mother and now grandmother, how my mother never passed on to any of us her intense fear of the water and her inability to swim more than a few strokes. We certainly didn't wear, carry, or even own lifejackets in the 50s and early 60s.

The most exciting part of this boat ride for us kids was going under the one way bridge, built in 1908! We would have to crouch down and sometimes sit on the bottom of the boat to get a good view as we passed under the old rattling boards. Sometimes dad would circle around quickly to go under again if luck struck us and a car drove over it shaking bits of dirt down on us. On humid days we could hear the rumbling of the bridge from our cottage at least 1 and 1/2 miles down the lake. You could yodel going under the bridge and hear the echo. Often while approaching, you could see the area kids jumping off it.

### Building Bridges and Associations

By the beginning of the 1960s, discussions began about replacing the bridge by building a causeway beside it. The causeway was to cross our 22 mile long lake at its narrowest point (a width of 200 feet). After three years, all but 30 feet of the causeway was completed, at which point plans were announced to close that gap with two culverts, each 15 feet in diameter. The growing opposition to the culvert project consolidated the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association. According to Norman E. Freeman, Secretary of the Association, the culvert project would "effectively cut the lake in two, and permanently restrict the potential development of boating, fishing, and guiding, all of which are growing industries in the area." The Guides' Association of Battersea expressed similar concerns and noted that the inadequate water depth could be cut almost in half because of the Gananoque Light and Water Supply Company's right to lower the water as much as three feet.

Efforts by the Association and letter writing campaigns prompted governments at all levels to reconsider the best course of action for the needs of this area and a decision was made to build a bridge across the 30 foot gap in the causeway. This took several years to complete, in part because of unstable material on the bottom of the lake bed. A temporary Bailey bridge had to be used in the interim. A new bridge was finally completed in July 1968. It represented quite an advance over the structure of the original bridge which had been described as "...a long, low, narrow, wooden structure, supported by wooden cribs loaded with rocks."

### Here We Go Again

After 41 years of being exposed to the elements and to the growing population and traffic of South Frontenac, the bridge is ready for a facelift. Tenders will be sought in the fall of 2009, with repairs starting in July 2010. Once work is underway, we will be down to a one lane bridge for a while, just like the old days. The deck will be replaced as well as some additional work to the steel girders underneath. According to Mark Segsworth, Public Works Manager for South Frontenac: "Most repairs will be out of water." It's anticipated that the estimated cost of \$1.5 million will be financed from South Frontenac, Provincial and Federal monies and that the Cataraqui Conservation Authority will work with the Township to make some improvements to the boat launch.

## Exploring Lake Planning (by Brian Ward)

A number of lake associations in the area have recently undertaken lake planning projects. Otty Lake, Desert Lake, and Charleston Lake have completed their plans. The Otty Lake plan may be seen on their website at [www.ottylakeassociation.ca](http://www.ottylakeassociation.ca) and there is an article about the Charleston Lake plan in the May 2009 issue of *Cottage Life* at [http://www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci\\_id/18255/la\\_id/1](http://www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci_id/18255/la_id/1).

The Battersea Loughborough Lake Association is exploring whether or not to undertake the development of such a plan. The process involves studies of water quality and water levels and identification of factors affecting these parameters. There are also consultations with lake property owners – both private and commercial – and other stakeholders (government, business, conservation authorities, tourism, fishing, etc.) to identify those factors about the lake that are the most important. What do people want and enjoy now at Loughborough Lake and what do people want the lake to be like in the future? What has to be done in order to realize these “visions?”



The result of the planning exercise is an overall document that addresses the concerns of the property owners and the environmental issues affecting the lake. Often the plan serves as a guide on how to protect and manage the lake in the long run, including habitat protection, property management, septic tank inspections, and water quality.

A plan can be done in a very comprehensive way or a more limited approach can be adopted. The Otty Lake, Desert Lake, and Charleston Lake plans are examples of a comprehensive lake plan. A lake planning exercise can be an expensive venture; one of the main cost factors is the amount of outside help – usually consultants – used in the development of the plan.

As a first step the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association is consulting with the key environmental government agencies and is collecting from them the historical reports and data dating back to the 1970s. The historical data will be collated and retained for the long term so that it is accessible for anyone interested. We would like your views on whether we should undertake a comprehensive lake planning project or a more limited approach. Please contact a member of the Board of Directors or come to the Annual General Meeting August 6 to express your views.

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## A Tome about the Foam (Getting the Dope on the Soap)

(Adapted from an article in the Charleston Lake Association Newsletter)

When you see foam on Loughborough Lake that looks like soaps suds, chances are what you are witnessing is not soap suds but the result of decomposing organic matter. All lakes contain organic matter such as algae, aquatic plants, leaves, stumps, branches, and other natural underwater debris. As the organic matter decomposes, it releases fatty acids similar to those found in soap. These act as surfactants, which means that they lessen the surface tension in the water and make it susceptible to foaming. When the water is agitated by wind and waves, the sudsy reaction occurs – which is why lake foam is most noticeable in a storm. The same reaction, by the way, is what creates foam at the bottom of a waterfall. Sometimes the foam will have a yellow or brown colour, but that is just from tannic acid in the decomposing plants.



The amount of organic matter in a lake and its fetch (that is, the amount of open water across which the wind blows) will determine whether natural foam occurs on a lake. This natural foam does not harm fish or vegetation and it is safe to swim in it.

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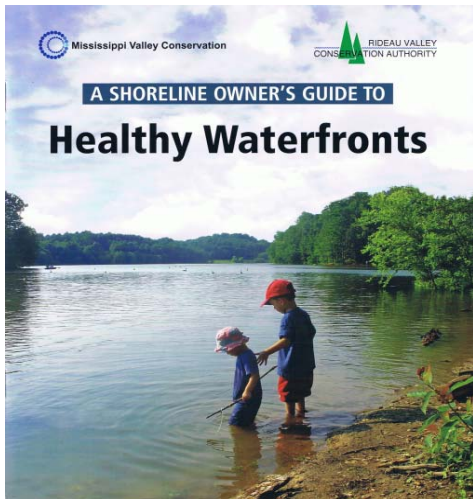
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## We All Need to be Good Lake Stewards

This informative booklet, filled with tips on how to manage your property and shoreline wisely and help to protect your lake, is being provided to all current members of the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association. It contains information that everyone concerned about Loughborough Lake should have.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Association and to receive this excellent resource. Registration information and a form follow.

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## Loughborough Lake Pontoon Poker Run

The 4th Annual Loughborough Lake Poker Run begins on Saturday July 25, 2009 at 11:30 a.m., with registration at the Guide Site at O'Neils Point. After registration, the participants are given a route map, and the run begins by 12:30 p.m. After five planned stops along the scenic route, the run ends at the Loughborough Lake Inn where the participants present their "poker hands".

For more information on the Poker Run, including persons to contact about the event, please go to: [www.pontoonpokerrun.com](http://www.pontoonpokerrun.com).



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## Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Membership Application

### Benefits of Membership:

- You'll help sustain the natural beauty of this critical resource
- You can obtain information such as detailed maps of the lake
- Your voice will be heard
- You will help fund many activities
- You can volunteer on various projects

### Membership Fees:

1 year	\$10
3 years	\$25
Lifetime	\$150

Please join today by completing the form on the next page and mailing it, along with your cheque (payable to the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association) to:

Battersea Loughborough Lake Association  
5096 Ubdegrove Lane, R. R. #2,  
Perth Road, ON, K0H 2L0

For further information about the Association, contact the President, Nona Mariotti, at 613-353-6589 or the Treasurer, Bob Fugler, at 613-353-7797. They can also be reached by email at [president@loughboroughlake.org](mailto:president@loughboroughlake.org) or [webmaster@loughboroughlake.org](mailto:webmaster@loughboroughlake.org).

## Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Board of Directors

President	Nona Mariotti ( <a href="mailto:president@loughboroughlake.org">president@loughboroughlake.org</a> ) R. R. #1, 3438 Lakeside Road, Inverary, ON, K0H 1X0	613-353-6589
Vice-President	Brian Ward	613-353-7803
Secretary	Diane Marantz	613-353-1060
Treasurer & Webmaster	Bob Fugler	613-353-7797
Directors	Marion Abell & John Pliniusen	613-353-1888
	Sally Blasko	613-353-2739
	Al Mariotti	613-353-6589
	Gordon Marantz	613-353-1060
	Karl Montgomery	613-353-6301
	Susan and Richard Tindal (Newsletter Editor)	613-353-6083
	Judy Ward	613-353-7803

Web site: [www.loughboroughlake.org](http://www.loughboroughlake.org)



<b>Membership Form</b> <b>Battersea Loughborough Lake Association</b> 5096 Ubdegrove Lane, R. R. #2, Perth Road, ON, K0H 2L0	
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Address: _____ _____	
Province/State: _____	Postal/Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Please check if you would like to receive future communications by email.	
Amount enclosed: \$ _____	