

Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Newsletter #I 2010



President's Message (by Nona Mariotti)

Yes spring has come! Our days are getting longer, the geese have finished their flights north, the loons have returned with their melancholy calls, the frogs are chirping, the dandelions are visiting us, and there will soon be no more noises from televisions carrying the Stanley Cup playoffs. There is something comforting and excitingly predictable about the entrance of spring on Loughborough. Even the macho type has to acknowledge the call of the loon sends shivers through the body.

The past winter has been a record mild one, not good for lake levels throughout the Great Lakes. We are fortunate though as our lake levels are right where they should be at this time of year. A small amount was taken out at the Hart dam in early May. If we have a hot/dry summer we will have to watch while boating for those shoals that grew up over winter!

Your Board of Directors have been working and negotiating with different ministries to acquire their expertise with various activities for the lake. We will be involved with a shore mapping of the lake, measuring water quality for phosphorus and water clarity in five areas, and – we hope – a creel study as well. These projects will be described further in later articles by your directors. We would certainly welcome volunteers from our membership for a day or two to help out as these projects unfold. Training will be provided where needed.

We have also been busy this spring building 10 new “treasure chests” to replace the outhouses built 10 years ago on some of the larger Crown islands. We have approximately 40 crown islands on our lake. We thank John Trousdale of Home Hardware Sydenham for graciously donating all the materials for this endeavor. Although most of the directors, with Karl Montgomery as foreman, have taken a role this year with the construction, Sally and Rick Blasko have been instrumental in organizing and preparing the new sites on the islands. They don't even raise a stink about it!

Once again this year, we are asking members to consider allowing their names to stand as directors in our organization. New ideas and energy can strengthen our team and spread the workload more widely. We know our members have skills that would be an asset to the lake and our association. We have approximately eight meetings a year. Some of our directors are snow birds or

Annual General Meeting of the
Battersea Loughborough Lake Association
Thursday August 5, 7:00 p.m.

Storrington Hall, Battersea Rd., Sunbury

Guest Speaker: Ed Giffin, speaking on
Ontario Recreational Fishing Survey
For more on Ed Giffin, see page 2.

Delicious finger food from *Cook in the Woods* provided at the meeting.

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take extensive winter holidays and some are away on business when meetings arise. But everyone stays involved and makes a contribution even if they have to miss some meetings. Truthfully we are a group of people, just like you, truly interested in keeping the lake and its surrounding environment healthy.

Two families in the East basin area lost their homes to fire this spring. Fortunately no one was physically injured but their homes, personal belongings including precious keepsakes are gone. The piercing sounds of sirens are a reminder to us all to be vigilant within our own home or cottage. Have we changed the smoke alarm batteries? Have we checked to be sure no varmints have gnawed on our electrical wires? Do we all have and know the escape routes in case of fire? The lake was so close but for these two homes the water access was far away. Perhaps it is time to work with our fire department to provide more water access points. Your Association has previously funded a variety of fire department needs and we will be contacting them to discuss how we can help keep all on and near the lake safer.

Have a safe, enjoyable summer on the lake and continue to respect everything Loughborough has to offer us all.

This Year's AGM Speaker Honoured

(from Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), Media Release, March 23, 2010)

For years of selfless service to fish and wildlife conservation, Inverary's Ed Giffin – a Loughborough Lake resident and member of this Association – was chosen by his peers to receive the **Jack O'Dette Conservation Leadership Award**. The accolade is given annually to an O.F.A.H. Director in recognition of hard work and dedication to conservation.

The award is named in honour of the late Jack O'Dette, a former Director on the O.F.A.H. Board, member of the Order of Canada, avid angler and hunter, and conservationist. Mr. Giffin was presented with the award at the 82nd Annual General Meeting and Fish and Wildlife Conference of the O.F.A.H., held recently in Mississauga. Nearly 450 delegates attended from across Ontario.

"Ed Giffin is a worthy recipient of this award. He is a passionate conservationist, and his input is highly valued," said Mike Reader, O.F.A.H. Executive Director. "This is not the first time Ed has been recognized for his volunteer efforts benefiting the fish and wildlife conservation community." A long time member of the O.F.A.H., Ed has served several years on the Board of Directors, on fish and wildlife advisory committees, stewardship committees, and forest management planning committees. He is the current Chair of O.F.A.H. Zone F, and has provided significant input into the Algonquin Land Claim process.

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Fishery Update (by Karl Montgomery)

During the week of May 10, 8000 lake trout fingerlings were stocked in the west basin. Ministry of Natural Resources biologist, Monique Charette, has informed us that this will likely be the last year that such a large number of trout are stocked. In the future, the MNR intends to stock Loughborough Lake only on alternate years, as part of the Ministry's long term plan to allow forage fish stocks to re-establish after being depleted from past overstocking.

Last year we told you of a plan to reintroduce the long absent whitefish to the lake. To date there has been no further action on that plan but it is still being considered by the Ministry.

In the early 1990s the MNR, with funding assistance from the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association, completed a fish habitat map of the entire shoreline including a video tape and corresponding map illustrating the fish habitat available. At the time, these documents were considered important to establish the level of development and to demonstrate any further deterioration of the habitat from human or natural causes. Many changes and developments have occurred around the lake since the original project and your Association wishes to update the nearly 20 year old photographic record of the shoreline and fish habitat. We have applied for a Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) grant to undertake the updating of important fish habitat information but have yet to learn if our application has been approved.

Good fishing!



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From Fishing to Fishers

(This article is based on notes from Judy Ward of a February 28 presentation to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority by Jeff Bowman, a research scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources)



The Fisher in the title does not refer to those who fish but to the rather unpleasant and increasingly prominent creature from the weasel family. The Fisher got its name from the European Poul Cat that the French called Fitch (pronounced Fiche). The males, slightly larger than the females, usually weigh about 15 pounds while the females are about 9 pounds. Fishers are dark brown ranging to almost black in color.

Fishers prefer densely forested areas with a variety of sizeable deciduous and coniferous trees, in which they often make their dens. Historically, their habitat diminished through logging, overharvesting for fur, and predator control. Algonquin Park was the furthest south that they ventured in Southeastern Ontario. Since the mid-20th century, however, the forested areas have increased, largely as a result of the reduction in farming. This change, along with the availability of diverse food sources, made Southeastern Ontario attractive to the Fishers. The ones now appearing in our area have mainly migrated from the Adirondaks, coming across the St. Lawrence River.

Once they are two years old, females mate and have their young in the spring months, usually producing from two to four kits per year. Fishers are very territorial and males will fight with males and females will fight with other females in their territory. Males and females don't fight even if their areas overlap (suggesting one notable difference from their human counterparts), and female territories are often smaller and inside male territories.

Fishers are considered generalist predators. The mainstay of their diet is rabbit and porcupine but they are scavengers and will eat deer carcasses and road kill as well as turkeys, birds, raccoons, snakes, fruit and berries. And yes they have been known to eat the odd cat and small dog. – although that is definitely unusual. It is very rare that Fishers would attack a human unless cornered. Their rate of survival is only about 50% per year and many of them die due to starvation during the winter. As a result, the most critical time to watch your cats and small dogs is during the winter, when food is not plentiful for Fishers.

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Update on Lake Planning (by Brian Ward)

Last year the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association was exploring whether and in what manner to undertake a Lake Planning project for Loughborough Lake. The members of the executive reviewed the process followed by a number of lake associations in the area, some of which undertook an extensive four year planning process. The results of all the studies seemed generally similar in nature, culminating in reports on the state of their lakes and including similar lists of priorities and possible actions.

The issue of lake planning was reviewed and discussed at the Association's AGM in August 2009. A questionnaire was distributed concerning lake planning and it was provided again in the Fall 2009 newsletter of the Association, which again reviewed this issue. Only four responses were received. All revealed similar concerns about the lake, relating to such matters as water quality, fishing, water levels, and noise. Even among the few who responded, there was no strong desire to undertake a large scale lake plan. Some concerns were expressed about the cost, time, and effort that would be needed for an exercise that would produce results similar to those arising from other lake studies.

Last November, four members of the BLLA Board of Directors met with representatives of the key environmental agencies in the area – the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, and the Cataraqui Conservation Authority. At this meeting we reviewed the status of Loughborough Lake and the programs and activities that the agencies have for the lakes in the area, and we identified a number of activities and projects that would benefit Loughborough Lake by complementing the work of these agencies. The Board of Directors has concluded that instead of undertaking a costly and extensive lake planning study the preferred approach is to pursue these complementary activities over the next few years. For 2010, three projects are being initiated.

The first project is an enhanced water quality monitoring program under the MOE Lake Partner Program. Historically we have had two sampling stations (one in each basin). After consulting with MOE it was concluded that sampling at more stations consistently throughout the year would increase the environmental information. MOE has agreed to fund the analysis for a total of 5 stations for the next 3 years. There will be two stations in the West Basin and three stations in the East Basin of Loughborough Lake. The other two projects being developed with MNR are a Creel Fish Survey and a Shoreline Assessment. Both of these projects are awaiting the MNR approvals and funding.

Three New Projects for 2010

Members who would like to get involved with projects on the lake, or who have projects to suggest, are encouraged to contact any board member.

 <p>Allison & Greg Shannon</p> <p>2542 Perth Rd. (Division St.) Glenburnie, ON K0H 1S0 613-546-6541 • sunharvest@sympatico.ca</p>	 <p>Julia Hayhoe (Finucane), CFA Wealth Advisor 863 Princess St., Suite 201 Kingston, ON, K7L 5N4</p> <p>Phone (613) 531-6305 Email julia_hayhoe@scotiamcleod.com Website juliahayhoe.com Wealth management solutions: investment management, financial planning, estate and tax planning</p>  <p>Registered trademark of the Bank of Nova Scotia, used by ScotiaMcLeod under license.</p>
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Water, Water Everywhere: But Is It Safe to Drink? (by Richard Tindal)



This newsletter is being finalized on the 10th anniversary of the Walkerton water tragedy caused by contamination of the municipal water supply with e-coli bacteria. Almost half of the 5,000 people in the town became ill, seven died, and many still feel the effects of their illness to this day. That tragic event should remind us that we can never take for granted a safe supply of drinking water – something about which many Canadians have been far too complacent.

A positive legacy of the Walkerton water tragedy was a judicial inquiry and subsequent provincial legislation (*Clean Water Act*) that now mandates the preparation of source water protection plans. In this area, the planning process is spearheaded by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority which has established a Source Protection Committee comprised of representatives from the municipal, economic, and community sectors, including the President of this Association. The Committee is working to identify, assess, and address risks to municipal drinking water systems and to prepare source protection plans for these systems. [For details on this project, go to www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca.]

All of us have a responsibility for ensuring safe drinking water. We can do our part by:

- Taking care not to dispose of any toxins in a way that might contaminate our surface or ground water supply.
- Inspecting, maintaining, and – when needed – replacing our septic systems and wells. Drinking water should be tested regularly and especially after spring run-off. One of the lessons of Walkerton is that you can't see, taste, or smell e-coli contamination in water.
- Holding to account those whose decisions may affect the quality of our water supplies (and our lakes). Excessive approval of lot severances, for example, or inappropriate approval of subdivisions can overtax soil capacity and lead to polluted wells or groundwater. Since a number of springs run into Loughborough Lake, protecting groundwater supplies also helps to protect the water quality in the lake. With municipal elections being held this October, we should be taking a close look at the environmental credentials of those who seek to represent us for the next four years. [See the article on page 9 for more on the upcoming municipal election.]

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Treasurer's Report and Membership Status (by Bob Fugler)

Battersea Loughborough Lake Association		
Income and Financial Position		
	12 Months	
	2009	2008
Income		
Income from memberships	\$1,680	\$1,136
Advertising	\$600	\$600
Interest/ Exchange	\$254	\$263
Donations	\$20	\$25
sub-total Income	\$2,554	\$2,024
Expenses		
D&O Insurance	-\$853	-\$853
Newsletters + booklets	-\$759	-\$683
Donations	-\$1,106	-\$150
AGM and miscellaneous	-\$76	-\$29
sub-total Expenses	-\$2,794	-\$1,715
Income less Expenses	-\$240	\$309
Bank and GICs		
Starting Balance January 1	\$13,139	\$12,830
Ending Balance December 31	\$12,899	\$13,139

The financial position of the Association remained strong at the end of 2009 as it was at the end of 2008. The fact that expenses exceeded income in 2009 was the result of a decision by the Board of Directors to provide financial assistance to the Nature Conservancy of Canada toward the purchase of land fronting on Loughborough Lake within the area known as the Frontenac Arch

Our membership revenue fluctuates from year to year, largely as a result of the varying number of three year memberships and life memberships purchased in a given year. At the end of 2009, we had 179 members in the Association – as compared to 177 at the end of 2008. There are 38 life members, 101 three year memberships, and 40 single year memberships.

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A Prick from a Tick can make you Sick

(Based on notes from Judy Ward on a talk by Tom Beaubiah, a biologist at the Cataraqui Region CA)



Ticks are a type of mite and are considered to be part of the spider family. They are quite tiny, with the largest ones being the size of a sesame seed – although they can appear much larger when engorged with blood from days of feeding. There are six types of ticks in our area but the one we most need to be careful of is the black legged tick shown in the accompanying graphic. The tick population in our area has been increasing for two main reasons. They are surviving more easily the milder winters arising from climate change. While they don't fly themselves, they have been attaching to migratory birds and thus expanding their territories.

Ticks have a two year life cycle, and must have a blood meal before laying their eggs. They feed on the blood from deer and other large animals, and also from mice or other small animals, dogs, and even from people. They are most actively looking to feed from April until June and again in the fall (mainly in October and November). Ticks tend to live in forests and areas with long grass, water, moss, and wet dead leaves. They do not like drier hotter areas. They attach themselves to creatures passing by and the process is so painless that the victim is often unaware of the tick's presence. But the unwelcome visitor should become quite visible in the three to seven days that it takes to complete the blood meal.

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria that are transmitted from the bite of an infected tick, with the black legged tick being the most likely carrier. Since a tick must be attached for more than 12 hours to transmit its bacterial disease to a human or animal, it should be removed as soon as it is spotted. Do **not** burn a tick, twist it, or squeeze its stomach, as it will release its bacteria into the blood stream. Use a tick remover, available at pet stores. It simply slides underneath the tick, allowing for gentle removal. Your dog or other pet should then be seen by a veterinarian. In the case of humans, see a doctor if you have any of the following symptoms – a rash that resembles a bulls-eye and may get larger for several days before fading, fatigue, fever, headache, stiff neck, and other flu like symptoms. If the disease is caught early enough it can be treated with antibiotics. Untreated, it can result in severe heart, arthritic, and nervous system problems.

Best Protection:

**Flick your tick and
see the doctor quick.
Get your pet to a Vet**

Wearing long pants and sleeves in wooded areas may help but ticks can climb into a cuff or otherwise attach to clothing and can be brought home by our pets. The best protection is being watchful, removing any ticks promptly, and seeing a doctor.



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Vote Early and Vote Often (by Richard Tindal)

Okay, so you shouldn't vote often (there are laws against that) but you can vote early (in advance polls) and – most of all – you should vote! I am referring to the upcoming municipal elections in Ontario.



The election date is earlier this year, on Monday October 25, so it is none too soon to start paying attention to declared candidates and there is still time to throw your hat in the ring if you have the inclination. The deadline for filing your nomination papers is September 10. More information is readily available at the South Frontenac Township web site at www.township.southfrontenac.on.ca, including a regularly updated list of candidates who have declared so far.

Municipalities provide many of the services essential to day to day civilized living. Official plan policies and zoning rules are obviously relevant for the pattern of land development in the township. Major changes are currently underway with respect to garbage and recycling services, especially on "private" roads, many of them adjacent to Loughborough Lake. The most visible tax we pay is the real property tax and while many like to complain about it, far too few pay much attention to the election of the municipal council and to monitoring its performance while in office. The council elected this October will serve a four year term, so make sure you have your say in this exercise.

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**Are We There Yet?
Update on Loughborough Lake Bridge Reconstruction**



Not hardly! But we are making progress. The plan for Loughborough Lake Bridge was a complete deck replacement, sandblasting and galvanizing the I-beams and repairing the concrete piers and abutments. The total cost of the rehabilitation will be over \$1.5 million. While it is hard to imagine from the accompanying photo, the project is currently on schedule and is projected to be completed by the end of September.

Have You Been There Recently? (by Bob Fugler)



Don't forget to look at your Association's website from time to time. We use it to try and keep people up to date with what is happening around the lake, upcoming meeting dates, and other topics of interest. We also keep the picture on the home page current with the season. At the moment, it shows the construction activity at the Loughborough Lake bridge – the same photo reproduced in the story above. You may also see familiar places at the web site – you might even see your place! The website welcomes submissions of pictures or stories about the lake. (You could become famous, in a small way, if your information is presented...) The website is www.loughboroughlake.org and letters/pictures can be sent to webmaster@loughboroughlake.org.

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Board Update

We have had some turnover on the Board again this year. Peter and Sharon Einwechter left the Board in February and long time members Diane and Gordon Marantz are moving to Kingston after an almost 30 year connection with Loughborough Lake that began when they made a fishing visit in 1983. They bought on the lake in 1989 and moved here following their retirement in 2001. They are life members of the Association and have long been on the Board of Directors. Gordon has been very helpful with legal advice throughout his tenure on the Board and served as Vice-President for several years. He and Diane have been most diligent in collecting water samples from the east basin for years.

Since their boat will be kept at the Battersea Marina, their connection with Loughborough Lake will continue, as will Diane's membership on the Board of Directors. However, she has relinquished her duties as Secretary, a position she fulfilled most ably. We thank Gordon and Diane for their past contribution and wish them every happiness in their new venue.

These changes are reflected in the list of Board members below, including the fact that Judy Ward has kindly agreed to take on the role of Secretary. We encourage members to consider joining the Board and helping us in our efforts to preserve and enhance life on Loughborough Lake. If interested, contact Association President Nona Mariotti (by phone 613-353-6589 or by email president@loughboroughlake.org).

Come On Board:

**We are looking for new members.
If you are interested, contact the
Association President.**

Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Board of Directors

President	Nona Mariotti (president@loughboroughlake.org) R. R. #1, 3438 Lakeside Road, Inverary, ON, K0H 1X0	613-353-6589
Vice-President	Brian Ward	613-353-7803
Secretary	Judy Ward	613-353-7803
Treasurer	Bob Fugler (also Web Master)	613-353-7797
Directors	Marion Abell & John Pliniusen	613-353-1888
	Sally Blasko	613-353-2739
	Bernard Finn	613-376-3353
	Diane Marantz	613-353-1060
	Al Mariotti	613-353-6589
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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 or webmaster@loughboroughlake.org.



Membership Form Battersea Loughborough Lake Association 5096 Ubdegrove Lane, R. R. #2, Perth Road, ON, K0H 2L0	
Name(s): _____	
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: \$ _____	



BATTERSEA LOUGHBOROUGH LAKE ASSOCIATION (Inc.)

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