

Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Newsletter #1 2011



President's Message (by Nona Mariotti)

Hopefully as you read this newsletter we have finally said goodbye to the winter of 2010-2011 with all its snowstorms, winds, and chilling temperatures. The Farmer's Almanac predicts a normal summer for Southern Ontario once this wet spring fades away. It predicts the hottest weather will be in late June, early and mid July, and late August. Hope this assists with holiday planning. It's definitely time to get the cottage/home in order for the summer fun ahead. Your association has been trying to identify the direction our members wish us to take in the future. Our survey of *Future Priorities for the BLLA* yielded very few responses. As a result, we will continue with some past initiatives. We did the mapping of the shoreline last year and will map all the islands this year. We will have the results available for viewing at our AGM, August 4th 2011 at the Storrington Hall. We have met with Mara Shaw, the Watershed Coordinator for the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA), to assist us in identifying possible projects for our lake. The three projects we plan at least to begin this year are:

- A volunteer pilot programme of 20-25 shoreline assessments and possible recommendations for property shoreline improvements. To volunteer your shoreline please call 613-353-6589 or email president@loughboroughlake.org. We hope over three years to complete the whole lake.
- Off-shore habitat mapping using the protocols developed on the Gananoque River system.
- Identifying species in the lake and those that use the lake [waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians, fish species etc.]

With the assistance of the CRCA, we are pursuing financial assistance and personnel resources for some of the projects. Winston Churchill once said "*We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.*" I am personally very proud of our Board of Directors and wish to thank them for their dedication to the lake, the extra time and talents given to meet our objectives, and their willingness to volunteer to ensure the Association continues to exist. We can't do it alone. We need your help. Anyone can take on the role of a director. The only requirement is an open mind and a willingness to learn. Most volunteers don't expect anything in return, but most of us experience personal growth and satisfaction. It's a great way to keep actively aware of the lake, keep in touch with people and make new friends. Do consider joining us as a director or volunteering to assist with one of our projects.

Annual General Meeting of the Battersea Loughborough Lake Association

Storrington Hall, Battersea Road,
Sunbury, August 4, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Refreshment and Door Prizes.

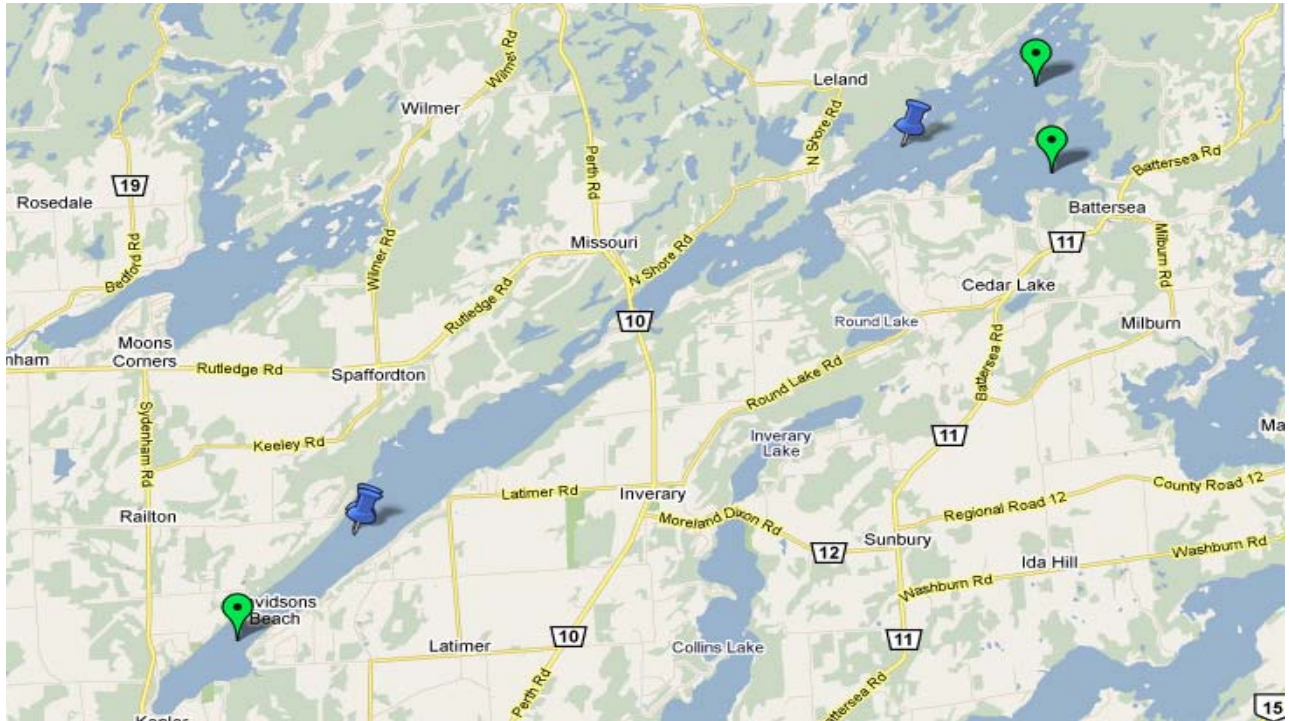
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bruce Tufts,
Biology Professor, Queen's University. A major theme of his research and writings has been how fish respond to environmental stresses.

Highlights of this Issue:

- p. 2 Water Quality Testing
- p. 4 Policing the Lake
- p. 5 Coyote Chatter
- p. 7 Financial Statement
- p. 9 Boating License Card
- p. 11 Plastic Can Be Drastic
- p. 12 Fishing Update
- p. 13 Survey Results
- P. 16 Board of Directors
- p. 17 Membership Application

Water Quality Testing: Why We Should Care? (by Mike Hulley)

We test the quality of the water to ensure that it is not adversely affected by developments on or near the lake. Beginning last year, we expanded the testing from two to five sites, as identified in the map below. The two original sites are the ones identified by pushpins.



We are particularly interested in the amount of the nutrient known as phosphorous. While nutrients are essential for the health and diversity of any lake, excessive nutrients can harm a water resource. The growth of rooted aquatic plants, such as milfoil and suspended algae, are strongly influenced by the amount of phosphorus. An increase in phosphorous concentrations generally leads to a corresponding increase in aquatic plant biomass. While other factors – such as the abundance of other nutrients, sunlight, water temperature, and water clarity – are important, phosphorus is usually the critical nutrient affecting plant growth.

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Excessive Phosphorous



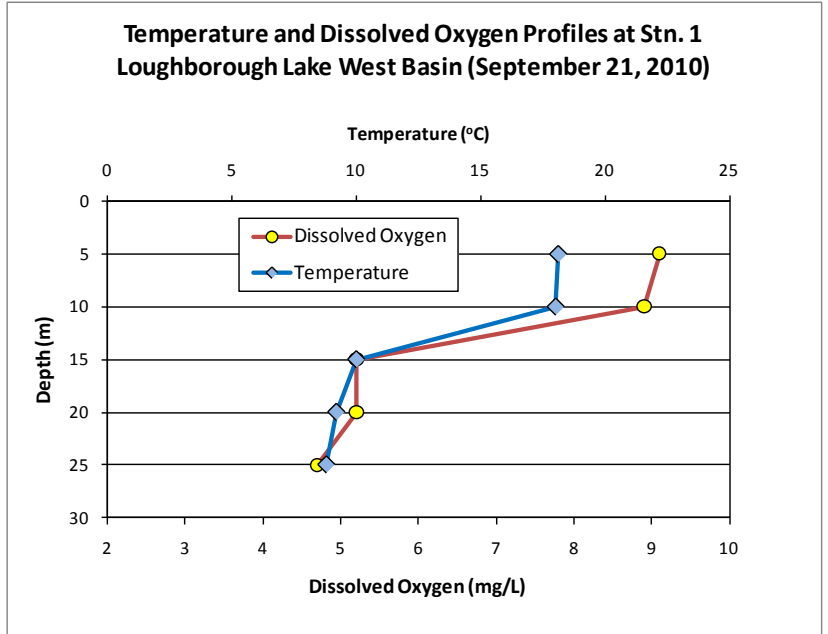
Excessive Aquatic Plants



Decreased Oxygen

Excessive growth of aquatic plants can lead to a variety of problems. These include obvious aesthetic issues, objectionable taste and odour, and in some cases the production of toxic substances. In addition, excessive aquatic plant growth can deplete the water of dissolved oxygen that is absolutely essential for the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. As it decays, plant matter further contributes to depletion of dissolved oxygen.

Some fish species are remarkably sensitive to drops in dissolved oxygen concentrations, with trout, for example, requiring dissolved oxygen concentrations of 5 mg/L or greater. As the chart illustrates, dissolved oxygen levels in the lower depths of Loughborough Lake fall just below the threshold 5 mg/L. Given this result, it is apparent that additional monitoring is warranted. More importantly, a concerted effort aimed at reducing nutrient loads into the lake is essential. The Association plans to complete additional dissolved oxygen profiles this summer and the results should be available for the August AGM.



Remember, there are number of ways you as a home or cottage owner can reduce phosphorus loads into the lake. For starters: avoid adding fertilizer to your lawn, particularly near-shore areas, have your septic system inspected, create a natural buffer strip to separate your lawn from the lake, and use phosphate free soaps. Collectively, we can make a real difference, contribute towards improving lake water quality, and preserve a valuable resource for generations to come.



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Policing the Lake (by Bob Fugler)

At a recent "Lake Networking" meeting hosted by the Rideau Valley Conservation Area group, members of the OPP discussed a number of police and security related issues. Please keep in mind the following:

1) What Are They Doing?

From time to time, we may see vehicles or individuals around our neighbourhood whose activities seem suspicious. If you have concerns, contact the police. They will want information such as time, date, location, vehicle description and license plate, and number of persons and description that relate to what you have seen.

2) Where Are They Going?

Trespass is an issue. In some cases there may be people simply crossing a property or there may be wood cutting or firewood gathering activities. The OPP stressed that it is the property owner's responsibility to place *No Trespassing* signs. They also noted that it is up to the intruder to prove that he/she has the right to be there. In cases of consistent property trespass violations, the property owner may have to meet with the OPP to decide what will (or can) be done.

3) Whose Trees Are These?

There have been cases of wood cutting on crown owned islands. The MNR would be the appropriate body to contact. If the wood is being used to start fires, then the fire department should be called. If this is a case of mischief, then contact the police.

4) Who Do You Call?

Resource Abuse:	1-877-847-7667
OPP:	1-888-310-1122
Crime Stoppers:	1-800-222-8477
Emergency:	911



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Coyote Chatter (by Judy Ward)

What follows is a synopsis of a presentation by Monique Charet, a biologist from the Ministry of Natural Resources at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority on November 21, 2010.

We Live in Coyote Country!

Yes coyotes do live in our area and they are here to stay. It is the Eastern Coyote who is most predominant and it is a hybrid species – a mix of Western Coyote and Eastern Wolf. The latter is the smallest of the wolf species, ranging from 30 to 45 pounds, quite a contrast to the Timber Wolf or Grey Wolf of Northern Canada, which weighs from 80 to 125 pounds.



Coyotes mate for life. If one of the pair dies, they find another mate. Coyotes generally breed once per year, in February, with the pups born about two months later. The litters range in size from 3-9 with the average being 6 pups. After one month they leave the den to start investigating outside and 3-4 months after birth, they learn how to hunt. In the fall, the pups leave the parents to find their own mates and to establish their own territories. Because they do not stay with the parents or in the parent's territory, the number of coyotes in any given territory does not increase.

Up to 50% of the pups do not survive the first year. If they reach adulthood, they have a better chance of survival. The life expectancy of a coyote ranges from 8-12 years with the average being 5 years. Coyotes are very territorial. Each territory houses one mated pair of coyotes and their pups (up until fall). Then only the mated adults remain in the territory.



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A 100 square kilometre territory may have anywhere from 20 to 100 coyotes, depending on the abundance of food. Depending on their size, the average food requirement per coyote is approximately 1 kilogram a day. They are opportunistic hunters and their main diet consists of rabbits, birds, small mammals such as squirrels, moles or mice, amphibians, grasshoppers, wild berries and fruit. And yes they will eat vegetables in a vegetable garden. They may pursue a deer, especially if it is wounded or young. And yes, they will eat cats and small dogs, so keep your pets close to you.

Coyotes Are Wile E.



Coyotes can adapt to any environment where there is an abundance of food, including urban areas. They are often found in city parks where squirrels are plentiful, in industrial parks, on abandoned properties, and wherever garbage is stored or freely available. Some people intentionally (and unwisely) feed coyotes. Once coyotes learn that food is readily available in a certain area, they will return there indefinitely. If there is not an abundance of natural prey, coyotes can be a problem for farmers with livestock such as sheep or chickens.

It is permissible to shoot a coyote that is killing livestock on your own property, but not on anyone else's unless you are a licensed trapper or hunter or animal control person authorized by MNR. You require a small game license to hunt coyotes and hunting them is open season all year long in Southern Ontario. Do check with your municipality though to make sure you are not breaking any municipal bylaws by hunting in your area especially near an urban area. It is illegal to poison coyotes or to cause them undue suffering. So if coyotes are causing a problem for your livestock, and you don't want to hunt them, contact MNR and get a person authorized by MNR to deal with your problem. Some municipalities have a compensation plan for farmers if it is proven that coyotes are killing their livestock.

How Do You Discourage Coyotes?

Remember that coyotes don't want confrontation. They are simply wild animals trying to survive, to eat, and to feed their young. There are several things you can do to discourage coyotes from living in your area.

1. Keep your garbage in closed containers or inside until garbage day. If you can, put your garbage out the morning it is to be collected. Coyotes hunt for food at night.
2. Also keep your compost in a closed container. If it is freely available, it will attract coyotes because they like fruit, vegetables, meat and eggs.
3. Do not intentionally feed coyotes or they will keep them coming back for more.

What If You Meet A Coyote – What Should You Do?

1. Do not run or you will be considered prey. Back away slowly from the animal and give it space. Coyotes do not want to confront humans so just back away and let them pass.
2. Keep your dog on a leash and keep it close to you, especially if it is a small dog. Try to stop it from barking at the coyote if you can.
3. Carry a whistle or other noise-making instrument since coyotes do not like loud noises. [Editor's Note: Playing disco music will probably also work.]
4. If walking at night, a bright flash light can scare off coyotes.

Financial and Membership Report (by Bob Fugler)

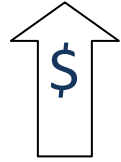
Battersea Loughborough Lake Association
Income and Financial Position

	12 months	
	2010	2009
Income		
Income from memberships	1,525	1,680
Advertising	1,120	600
Donations	30	20
Interest/Exchange	220	254
sub-total Income	\$2,895	\$2,554
Expenses		
D&O Insurance	-853	-853
Newsletters	-585	-759
Projects	-485	0
Donations	0	-1,106
AGM and miscellaneous	-264	-76
sub-total Expenses	-\$2,188	-\$2,794
 Income less Expenses	 \$708	 -\$240
 Bank & GICs		
Starting Bal Jan 1	\$12,899	\$13,139
Ending Bal Dec 31	\$13,607	\$12,899

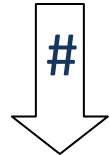
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Money and Memberships continued


Revenues were greater by \$341, mostly a result of increased advertising from providing two newsletters in 2010 rather than one in the previous year. Expenses were lower in 2010 by \$606. Although two newsletters were sent last year, postage costs were reduced by using electronic mailing where possible. We had also incurred extra postage costs in 2009 because we included informational shoreline booklets with the newsletter. We did not make a major (or minor) donation in 2010 but did spend almost \$500 on projects.



Memberships declined during 2010 from 179 members to 166. Of these, 34 held a one year membership, 95 were three year members, and 37 were life members.



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Don't Leave Home Without It (with apologies to American Express)

You must have your official boat operator's card with you when boating. While it might seem logical to make copies to leave in your boat, or with your boat carry-on bag, you need the original when operating a motorized vessel; a copy will not suffice.

Transport Canada has implemented changes to the Pleasure Craft Operator Card exam. These changes affect both online and in-person exams, including mandatory completion of a 3 hour course for boaters that choose to take their exam on line and an increase from 36 to 50 questions.

Now is the time to order new BOATsmart! cards to replace the one you may have misplaced. Remember: You need to have the official card on board when operating any motorized vessel. Otherwise, you face the possibility of a \$250 fine. BOATsmart! Canada offers discounts on multiple cards to help you get ready for spring.

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Web Words

Don't forget to look at your Association's website (www.loughboroughlake.org) 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. The website welcomes submissions of pictures or stories about the lake. Please send these to webmaster@loughboroughlake.org.

Another useful website is that of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA). Considerable information is available at the website at www.foca.on.ca, and there are additional resources available to those who become members. The current fee is \$37.50 and one can register on line.



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Plastic Can Be Drastic (by Nona Mariotti)

Recently, we came upon a plastic grocery bag floating in the lake with a water bottle and sandwich baggies inside it. This couldn't help remind us of the many articles and YouTube videos we've seen regarding the huge patches of garbage floating in the oceans and seaside areas. Many problems evident in our oceans could quickly become a major concern for all of us who care about Loughborough Lake.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

A very large area of the Pacific Ocean now contains a garbage patch, comprised mainly of a mass of plastic debris. Definitions of its size vary, but it is huge and growing. It is estimated that there are six times more plastic than plankton in this area of the ocean. The circular motion of the currents does break the plastic into smaller pieces, but they are not biodegradable because of the petroleum base. Moreover, there is evidence that small fish and wildlife are ingesting the smaller pieces, which look and move like plankton. One bird, for example, was found with 26 pieces of plastic in its body – everything from small pieces of a water bottle cap to plastic rope and bag pieces. Uncertain but troubling is the likely long term negative impact on life in the ocean and on those who depend on seafood to survive.

Any debris we see floating around our shores can become hazardous. How many times have we picked up the plastic six pack holders from the shores? We all know what they do to our ducks, loons, and geese. Let's put even more effort into maintaining Loughborough's beautiful water. Stop and pick up floating garbage please and thank you to those already being responsible!

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Large Scale Accident of Fishy Nature Puts MNR on the Hook (by Karl Montgomery)

Lake trout fishermen are mourning the loss, last year, of thousands of Lake Manitou lake trout eggs while in transit to the fish hatchery. While no details of what killed the eggs were provided the net result is that the MNR is on the hook for thousands of potential fingerlings destined for stocking in Loughborough and other Ontario lakes. As a result there will be no lake trout released into Loughborough Lake in 2011.

The good news is that 5,000 two and one-half year old fish were stocked last year and these older fish are expected to have a much higher survival rate than the one year old fish usually stocked. The MNR feels that the lack of available fingerlings this year should not affect the fishery and they promise to be back on line with the stocking program next year.

Apparently the smelt, an important food source for lake trout, have returned in large numbers this spring. In the past few years there were few smelt spotted during the annual spring 'run' and it was thought that their population decline was likely due to the over stocking of trout for many years.

In further news, the MNR expects to conduct netting surveys throughout the lake, probably beginning in 2012, to establish the health of the fish populations. There will be no action taken on the potential stocking of white fish until the key biologist in this program returns from a leave, next year.

Good fishing!



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Responses to Association Survey re Future Activities (by Bob Fugler)

In the spring of 2011, members were invited to make suggestions for future Association projects, consistent with the objectives set out in our 1963 charter of incorporation.

- 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; and**
- c) To obtain and maintain adequate police and fire protection in the area.**

While no promises were made, the Board of Directors agreed to consider all ideas received and to evaluate them largely on the basis of their feasibility, cost, and volunteer labour demands. To date we have only received three responses, two written and one oral. While this could indicate that there are not many issues on the lake, we are re-issuing the invitation for members to send along their ideas to: president@loughboroughlake.org.

The comments we received are summarized below. We would be interested in learning if other lake residents share similar concerns. We would also really like to hear if you have suggestions or recommendations that might help answer some of these concerns – after all, there is an old saying that “Nobody is as smart as all of us”. We are sure that whatever response your lake association could come up with would be easily surpassed by the ideas and the collective knowledge of our lake residents. So, put on your thinking hats and give us your advice on the following issues:

1) Handling Emergencies:

Fire protection and to a lesser extent, police and ambulance assistance, was the concern of an island resident. If there were an emergency noticed by a boater, resident of another island, or shoreline homeowner, how could any of them alert the island resident to the problem – if the island resident did not know of the issue but was available to do something about it? The writer mentioned that some islands have shore pumps that could be used to respond to fires more quickly than the time it would take the fire department could arrive. Should information on the location of these shore pumps be more widely available for possible use by non-resident good Samaritans? We are pretty sure that the fire department would not recommend fire fighting by private citizens. We are also pretty sure that islanders, who by their nature are an independent lot, would not wait around to begin fire fighting should the need arise. However this respondent brings up important issues with regards to island living and, more generally, rural living. In the situation where there are not too many neighbours around – what can be done enhance responses in times of emergency?

2) Keeping the Peace:

Islands were also the subject of a second submission, but in this case the issue was the inconsiderate use of Crown islands by some campers. The writer described occasions where people would erect semi-permanent shelters on the Crown islands, basically denying others the opportunity to use that campsite in that season. These visitors made themselves pretty unpopular with nearby lakeside residents, particularly at night, due to their loud noises, fighting, and drinking. And at the end of the season, there was a considerable amount of garbage left to be cleaned up. The resident has complained to police, the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority, and the fishing guides, who apparently were the sole organization that actually approached the campers and had some success in restoring peace and quiet.

Most of the disturbance issues are police matters since the lake association and the Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority do not have any jurisdiction in these matters. Issues of campsite matters – tree cutting on crown land, semi-permanently established campers – are, as we understand it, MNR matters.

Unfortunately there has to be a pretty serious incident to get the police out on the lake in the night. We have heard that they require at least two officers in a boat at night rather than one. Boating around the islands in Loughborough Lake after dark can be a risky proposition if you don't know the lake like the back of your own hand. However that should not mean that the islands are like the Wild West after dark. How have these problems been handled in the past? Do you have any suggestions (or a process) for how these issues might be handled in the future?

3) (Re)establishing a whitefish fishery:



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Finally we heard from one BLLA member about the desirability of re-establishing a whitefish fishery on the lake. This idea is not new and has been under consideration by the MNR. However the introduction (and even the re-introduction) of a fish species that is not currently in the area requires planning and testing to establish the chances that the new species will thrive and will not unduly affect the current resident species of the lake. As reported in our Spring 2009 Newsletter:

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.

However, with the MNR person who would be undertaking such a study on leave, the whitefish initiative is currently on hold. We will keep you informed of any changes.



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Tips for Summer Behaviour from the OPP

(The following is a summary of tips provided by the Lake Networking Group from Inspector Gerry Salisbury of the Lanark County OPP Detachment.)

It's once again time for lake side residents to enjoy activities such as boating, fishing, and – yes – some partying with friends. Whatever your activities, safety and respect for others must be paramount. The OPP will have full time marine patrols focusing on enforcement and proactive measures. Please follow these important tips:

- **DON'T** drink alcohol and operate a vessel. These two activities don't mix and the penalty includes suspension from operating not just your boat but also your car.
- **KNOW** the water where you plan to swim. Don't dive in shallow water and always have a swim buddy.
- **RESPECT** other people's property. If you plan to party, pick up your garbage, be careful with any fires you start, and keep the noise down.
- **KEEP** the speed of your vessel moderate and respect the shoreline.
- **HAVE** your marine operator's licence with you and all required safety equipment.
- **BE** a good neighbour and watch out for each other. If you see an activity that is dangerous, report it. Don't take the attitude that it's someone else's responsibility; it may cost a life!



The goal is for everyone to have a healthy and enjoyable summer. One marine fatality is one too many!!!

For further details on marine safety, go to <http://www.opp.ca/ecms/index.php?id=169>.

<div data-bbox="207 1341 456 1486"><p>AUSTIN FOX</p></div> <div data-bbox="207 1486 747 1528"><p>PLUMBING & HEATING</p></div> <div data-bbox="264 1528 703 1560"><p><i>Providing Frontenac County with Home Comfort</i></p></div> <div data-bbox="367 1566 587 1621"><p>Greg C. Howatson <i>President</i></p></div> <div data-bbox="165 1623 386 1654"><p>Tel: (613) 376-3755</p></div> <div data-bbox="165 1656 389 1688"><p>Fax: (613) 376-7641</p></div> <div data-bbox="165 1688 466 1719"><p>Email: greg@foxheating.ca</p></div> <div data-bbox="165 1719 449 1753"><p>Web: www.foxheating.ca</p></div> <div data-bbox="539 1341 747 1486"><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heating• Ventilation• Air Conditioning• Sheet Metal• Plumbing• Pumps</div> <div data-bbox="571 1688 758 1751"><p>Now offering Solar Hot Water</p></div>	<div data-bbox="868 1344 1404 1411"><h2>SHANNON'S GARAGE</h2></div> <div data-bbox="982 1453 1284 1482"><p>MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION</p></div> <div data-bbox="953 1524 1317 1562"><p><i>Repairs to All Makes of Cars and Trucks</i></p></div> <div data-bbox="872 1589 1167 1667"><p>2429 Perth Road Glenburnie, Ontario K0H 1S0</p></div> <div data-bbox="1221 1589 1401 1667"><p>Telephone & Fax (613) 549-1516</p></div> <div data-bbox="998 1694 1268 1736"><p>David M. Shannon, Prop.</p></div>
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Board of Directors:

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	Sally Blasko	613-353-2739
	Diane Marantz	613-353-1060
	Al Mariotti	613-353-6589
	Karl Montgomery	613-353-6301
	Susan and Richard Tindal (Newsletter Editor)	613-353-6083

Web site: www.loughboroughlake.org

Members are encouraged to consider Board membership. If interested, please contact the President at the email or phone number indicated above.

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 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

[Please note that memberships are not transferable.]

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:



Please check if you would like to receive future communications by email.

Amount enclosed: \$() Please make cheque to Battersea Loughborough Lake Association

NOTE: If address above is not your lake residence, please add your lake address below:

Name(s):

Address:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip Code:

Phone:



Newsletter Number 1, 2011

*Inside the Spring 2011 Newsletter
Battersea Loughborough Lake Association*

Water Quality Testing (p. 2)

Policing the Lake (p. 4)

Coyote Chatter (p. 5)

Financial and Membership Report (p. 7)

Boating License Reminder (p. 9)

Plastic Can Be Drastic (p. 11)

Fishing Update (p. 12)

Future Activities of the Association (p. 13)

Tips from the OPP (p. 15)

Board of Directors (p. 16)

Membership Application Form (p. 17)