

# - 2011

With the fantastic summer and fall weather we have experienced it is really easy to write a report to members. After all, the number one objective for all of us is to enjoy the wonderful resource we share at Horseshoe Lake and this year it was particularly easy.

### Lots of Things Going On

You will find reports elsewhere in this newsletter or on the HLA website with more detail, but here is a list of some of the key activities supported by the HLA in 2011;

- We sponsored our first septic pump-out program for water access residents and for 2012 we will rolling out a money saving pump-out program for road access residents.....a special notice will be coming in early spring so watch for it.
- Our annual picnic and fireworks display was a great success again in 2011 and we thank all of you for your support.
- We worked closely with the Planning Department and the Environmental Departments at Seguin township on many lake related matters (see the article

regarding an on-going OMB hearing)

- Much time and effort and money has been put into the process of getting the required approvals for a permanent dam to replace the current unauthorized rock weir. A number of milestones have been reached this year and separate from this Newsletter is a full and comprehensive summary of the activity that has been completed and the plan for the future. It has been a long road but we are making headway to provide a lasting solution to help low water levels in Summer and to reduce high water levels in fall and spring.



## Water Quality Update

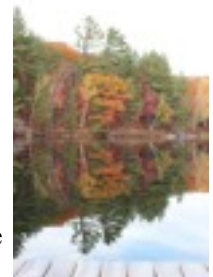
### Algae

- There was no sign of algae as the lake maintained a reasonable temperature throughout most of the summer.
- By my measurements the temperature got up to the early 80's in July but quickly went down.
- It was never really warm too far below the surface, which is fundamental to keeping the algae dormant on the floor of the lake.



Our most important initiative will be focused on how to engage more residents and cottagers in the HLA community and activities. What is more fundamental than making sure that as concerned citizens we are ready to protect what we have and that we work together to hold all government agencies responsible for the lake and accountable for their activities. We will be reaching out to all constituents in the near future and we need your help

as community members to engage your neighbors and help us find the right focus for the association enabling the preservation and extension of our shared experiences. By engaging more stakeholders our association will be stronger and more capable of action. Have a great winter.....see you all in the summer of 2012.





Once again, our annual picnic proved to be a big success. 230 people attended the festivities. Our Picnic Committee brought in some new activities this year including: The Tug O' War, Strongman and Woman Competition and The Toonie Toss.

We would like to thank Helen-Joy McGee, Jo-Ann Ferguson and all the volunteers who worked diligently to organize the BBQ. The steak on a bun was fantastic, thanks to the many chefs who cooked tirelessly under the extreme heat conditions. It was an awesome BBQ.

A big thank you to Even Steven for yet another great evening of music and dancing. A very special thank you to Dave Fullerton and Helen-Joy McGee, you will be missed next year.

Last but not least, the unbelievable firework display put on by Lenard Coburn. Thank you Lenard and Jane for once again knocking our socks off with this display.

Please remember, if you have not already done so, to donate to the Firework Fund so that we can continue with this annual event enjoyed by so many. Donations can be made at the Horseshoe Pines Marina or to any board member of the HLA.

Our Picnic Committee will be working hard to ensure another successful picnic next year. Our Committee is open to any suggestions or comments you have to make our picnic even better success. If you are interested in volunteering for the picnic, please let us know by calling Carol Wood-Kermath at 416-573-6639. Stayed tuned for our Spring Newsletter for updates on next year's picnic.



We had a lot of entrants this year in the canoe races, which made them extremely exciting and humorous to watch. We would like to thank all those who participated in the races and in making our afternoon very entertaining. Stay tuned, we hope to make these races even more exciting for next year. A big thank you to Mike Overholt who did a fantastic job of organizing these races.

We would like to thank everybody who made donations to the raffle and Jean Beck for all her work in making this raffle a success.

The Strongman and Woman Competition was hugely popular. Unfortunately, not everybody could participate due to the overwhelming response; however we hope to see all you strongmen and women out next year. This will be a "not to miss" event next year. Thanks to Dave Beck for his efforts in making this category a sure hit for years to come.

The Tug O'War sparked a lot of enthusiasm from both young and old. Be sure to get your family participating next year. This year's family winner was The Marshall Family. A force to be reckoned with for next year. The Toonie Toss equally attracted a huge crowd. Congrats to Glen Wood on his win.



1. *Canoes ready for Races*
2. *BBQ Kings*
3. *Our fantastic Fireworks*



There have been a series of OMB meetings (4 sessions totaling 19 days) considering a severance application for a property on Horseshoe Lake Road very near the marina. The Applicant has two cottages on one lot presently and the lot is about 275 feet in frontage. The current minimum for a new building lot is 300 feet.

The hearing began to consider the severance but was sidelined as it became apparent that the second cottage on the property was not properly "permitted". It was to have been a small recreational facility secondary to the original cottage but, was upgraded to provide full facility without acquiring the required building permits. On-site appraisals resulted and many days and hours of testimony focused on the legality of the building and bylaw infraction rather than the severance application.

It is beyond the understanding of this writer how the OMB hearing was not shut down immediately after the facts were uncovered but the OMB Officer has soldiered on and the next set of hearing days are tentatively set for April 30-May3, 2012 in Seguin Council chambers. Please check if you plan to attend as, unbelievably, there has been some talk of moving the venue of the hearing to Barrie or Toronto!

Your Association has strongly supported the Planning Department of Seguin Township in the denial of this application and it is hoped that justice will be served and the extensive Seguin Planning abided by. Any constituents that can attend any part of the up coming hearings are encouraged to do so and we welcome your comments on this important matter. The Township is very appreciative of HLA support.

*the new Dam is coming.....*but the road to final approval has been long and "rocky"!

As you may know, the Horseshoe Lake Association was formed to address the controversial issue of returning the lake to "normal" levels following the dredging at the mouth of the culvert in late fall of 2003 to remove what was deemed an unauthorized and therefore illegal restriction where

the lake flows into Blackstone Creek. The HLA was successful in having a temporary weir installed in the fall of 2005 at a height, it hoped, would return the lake close to its previous levels while the process to establish a more permanent structure at the "correct" level was pursued. It was the beginning of a long, frustrating and emotionally packed process that will soon be coming to a satisfactory end.

We appreciate your support in helping to come to the end of this arduous project! It has been far more complicated, expensive and time consuming than any of us knew at the beginning of the process. It is important we come to end of job soon without any more road blocks as MNR can reject our efforts at any time and revert to their original plan to pull out the rock weir and put nothing in its place.....

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Horseshoe Lake Fall/Winter Membership Update

Where does the time go? It is difficult to believe that the summer cottage season has come and gone however for those fortunate to enjoy our lake year round, winter is right around the corner!

I am pleased to announce the following winners for the early bird membership drive.

**3rd place – Mark & Susan Kocaurek - \$25**

**2nd place – Charly & Ann Marie Kovacsazy - \$50**

**Grand Prize – Laurence and Lorraine Marshall - \$75**

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Thank you once again for your membership commitment and congratulations to our winners!

Now on to new business, I have continued to solicit those interested in joining our HLA by reminding people of the importance of a strong membership group. For example some of our activities include;

- Liaising with, monitoring, and providing input to government affairs (Municipal, County, Provincial, and Federal)
- Developing a Lake Plan for Horseshoe Lake
- Lake stewardship
- Monitoring Waterway issues
- Membership drives to attract new members to HLA and bolster our collective voice

Our 2011/2012 HLA membership stands at less than 100 families out of a population of 160 families who have at one time been active members, and out of a population of 320 residents on the lakes. In retrospect our membership is based on membership renewal versus new members joining. For this reason, I would like to ask for your help.

We have had a number of the properties on the lake transfer ownership. In addition, we have focused our membership drive primarily on existing and past members. I know that many of you know of neighbors or friends that perhaps are unaware of the HLA and its efforts. If I could ask you to kindly solicit either new neighbors, existing friends or past members to support our HLA it will help us gain in membership strength and influence.

At the end of the day, we all have common interests in the

preservation of the lake we enjoy and love. Strong membership representation will only assist in preserving the lake and it's beauty along with ensuring a healthy community and stewardship.

We're committed to protecting your interests in Horseshoe Lake – environmentally, politically and culturally. The HLA exists and serves so you can relax and enjoy the place you love best.

In closing, I thank you for your anticipated efforts and commend you for joining such a worthwhile cause.

Best regards,

Mike Overholt  
Director - HLA Membership

For more information regarding membership, please visit the HLA website or contact our Director of Membership, Mike Overholt, directly at 905 309 4486.

*The HLA is always looking for new ways to serve its members. If you have suggestions or questions, please call me at 905 309 4486.*

The membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Membership Fees, for new and renewing members, are **\$40.00** take advantage of our **Special 3 ea e be hi a e j \$100.00**

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