

HLA

SPRING 2010



President's Message

Good Old Mother Nature

As we move into 2010, it seems that the only thing that is certain is that things will change! I returned from eight weeks of the coolest weather Florida has experienced in living memory to find the opposite in Toronto and at Horseshoe Lake!

And the result of the low snowfall and little March or April is that the lake begins at levels lower than usual. With these lower levels, we

expect that ice damage was minimal, but we have to hope for rain to sustain us in the summer. Now if good old Mother Nature can give us some precipitation (at night only!) and balance things off we will have a great summer at the cottage. If you wish to follow the levels of the lake, please refer to our [website](#) and compare with the 20 + years' history as we post current measurements.

This summer we hope to move forward with the establishment of a more permanent weir as previously established and there will be a

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number of bulletins to follow on this important matter.

save the date

Did you know the permanent population of Seguin is 4,280 and the seasonal population is about 15,000? This is an election year in Seguin Township. A municipal all-candidates meeting will be held on Saturday September 25, 2010 from 1 - 4 pm at the The Foley Agricultural Hall. Everyone is invited. Please mark the date on your calendar and spread the word to your neighbours.

Important Survey

As some of you know, we are currently in the middle of conducting a survey of Lake Constituents to get input from all interested parties on priorities for your Association. We want to broaden our membership and make sure we include all Horseshoe /Virtue Lake constituents in this survey: HLA members and non-members, full and part-time residents, and operators of commercial businesses. So far the early results of the survey make a few things very clear:

- 100 % of respondents to date include “water quality” as 1 of the first 2 priorities for the Association
- Almost 50% of respondents to date include “boating practices” as 1 of the first 3 priorities for the Association.
- Almost 50% of respondents to date include “municipal and tax matters” as 1 of the first 3 priorities for the Association.

If you have not participated in our on-line survey yet and wish to do so, please contact me by email at fletcher@telepartners.com and I would be pleased to pass on the link to you together with other background information. If you know a non-member or local resident who may want to participate please let me know as well.

Why is Planning Important?

The survey is important to set the direction for HLA activities in the future. An extension of this kind of thinking is to develop a Plan that focuses on our local environment in the light of existing Township and Provincial laws. A Lake Plan's purpose is to outline a set of guidelines for all constituents for the enhancement of the area around Horseshoe and Virtue lakes. Examples of such guidelines are enhanced water testing, education programs regarding wildlife and shoreline protection or education on good boating practices.

A Plan can also help to assure the protection of our land to allow for continued enjoyment by all. In recent years the Province has instructed the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board -- the final arbitrator on zoning and variations etc.) to recognize formally documented Township Plans and their Lake Plan extensions. This means that if we have a Lake Plan we are much better positioned to protect against unwanted development or intensification proposals for multiple dwelling/condominium/lot-sharing arrangements.

To complete a Lake Plan requires input and support from all constituents. Please don't sit on the sidelines. We are starting with our survey and we will come to everyone with more proposals and ideas around the concept of Planning. If there is a common vision for our lakes, we will be well served by a Plan.

A lot more to come!

Fletcher Keating

Virtue & Horseshoe Lakes 2nd Annual Picnic

The Virtue and Horseshoe Lakes picnic will be held on Saturday July 31st, at 3:00 p.m. The rain date is Sun. Aug. 1.

- 3:00 Children's games, play area and beach displays:
 - HLA membership table and stewardship information
 - Georgian jumpers - skipping
 - Georgian bay biosphere reserve and live reptile display
- 3:30 White squall kayak & canoe demonstration
- 4:30 Canoe races
- 5:50 Opening parade – O Canada & children's parade
- 6:00 Dinner – Theo's famous chili, hot dogs, hamburgers & pot luck salads and desserts
- 7:00 Raffle & door prizes
- 7:30 Presentation of trophies, spirit awards & acknowledgements
- 8:15 Dance with the Even Steven band



Tickets will be available from Melita Camilleri and Horseshoe Pines Marina
Prices: children: \$5 adults: \$10

We plan to have tickets available sometime in June. Also, we would appreciate prize donations for the raffle, which has always been a favourite event.

Last year we sold 297 adult and 36 children's tickets and we anticipate an even bigger turnout this year! We hope that all of our friends and neighbours on Virtue & Horseshoe Lakes will attend.

Membership payment options

Now you can now join or renew your Horseshoe Lake Association membership from the convenience of your computer! Simply visit <http://www.horseshoelakeassociation.ca/> and go to the button that says Buy Now. We accept Mastercard, Visa and American Express.



Living Sustainably

in Seguin is a booklet for all waterfront property owners. Its purpose is to promote sustainable living practices along the shorelines of our lakes, rivers and streams. The handbook provides a range of 'best management practices' that are directed to property-specific development and activities. It provides information and practical examples of sustainable living practices that protect the natural character of the Township of Seguin.

Download the pdf at:

[Living Sustainably in Seguin \(pdf\)](#)

Green Boating

BOAT MAINTENANCE

Responsible and environmentally friendly boating begins even before you put your boat in the water. If your boat was shrink-wrapped for the winter, make sure your marina recycles the wrapping, and consider switching to a reusable tarp next fall. Also, switching from an ethylene glycol antifreeze/coolant to a propylene glycol one reduces the amount of toxins being released into the water next year.

All major maintenance chores should be done on land and far enough away from any water source so as to prevent contamination. When scraping, sanding and stripping your hull, capture all debris in a drop cloth or tarp and dispose of all residue properly. If you are going to put antifouling paint on your hull, consider using hard as it lasts longer and needs less repainting than ablative and non-ablative paints.

A more environmentally friendly option for your hull is to cover it with a regular paint containing vinyl, silicone, Teflon, or organic ingredients such as cayenne pepper (avoid paints containing toxic metals such as copper, mercury, arsenic, or pesticides and biocides), and protect it regularly with a coat of slick bottom wax.

CLEANING

Any major cleaning of your boat should be done on dry land with phosphate-free, non-toxic soaps and detergents. To prevent your contaminating your waterway through runoff, spills and debris should be contained using tarps and collected using a vacuum or broom.

While on the water, you can reduce your need for boat soaps by scrubbing and rinsing your boat with freshwater after each trip. When cleaners are necessary, look for products with the EcoLogo symbol on it to find ones that are less harmful to the environment than typical cleaners. Homemade household cleaners are also effective and the most environmentally friendly choice.

- Baking soda and salt will clean stains on fiberglass.
- Vinegar & water will wash windows and decks. Vinegar, salt and water can be used to clean brass and chrome, and to remove mildew.
- Olive oil is a natural wood polisher.
- Hydrogen peroxide can be used in place of bleach as a disinfectant and whitener.

FUEL SPILLS

Even small fuel spills in the water are enough to kill aquatic species and contaminate drinking water resources. Everything needs to be done to prevent these spills, and the best way you can do this is to fill fuel tanks carefully using a funnel, have cloths ready to catch spills, and to never top off your fuel tank.

Fuel tanks and motors should be checked regularly for leaks, and drip pans should be placed anywhere that a leak might occur. When working with oil, absorbent bilge pads should be handy to catch any spills before they contaminate the bilge water. Contaminated bilge water should never be pumped out overboard, but should be disposed of properly at the marina along with your absorbent bilge pads.

ENGINE MAINTENANCE

Not many people enjoy a day of boating with the smell of burning oil and fuel in the air and the loud whine of a motor in their ears. To reduce the noise, air and water pollution associated with two-stroke engines, upgrade to a four-stroke engine and breathe a little easier. The higher upfront cost of a four-stroke engine is quickly recuperated through lower fuel and oil costs.

No matter what type of engine you have, it is important to keep your motor well- maintained and tuned so it will operate cleanly and more efficiently. Keeping cloths handy and wiping your engine frequently will keep it clean without the use of harmful solvents.

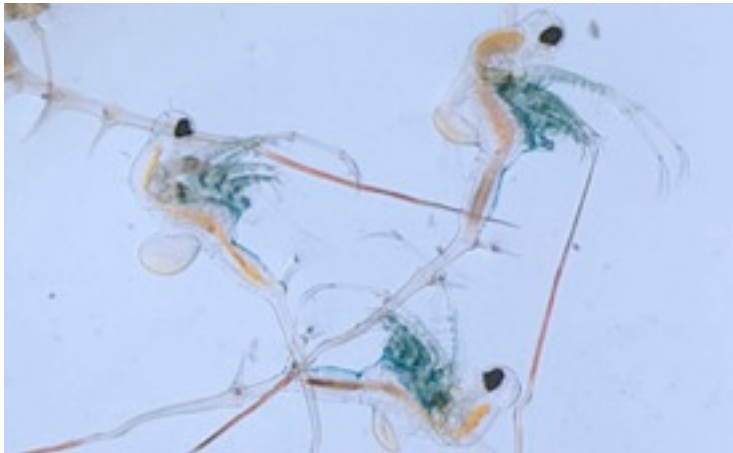
courtesy of the Muskoka Watershed Council

YOUR ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO TEST FOR...

Invasive Species

SPINY WATER FLEA

Spiny water flea was introduced to the Great Lakes probably via ballast water discharge of commercial shipping vessels. It spread to inland lakes likely through angling and recreational boating via live wells, bait buckets, fishing lines, down-riggers or other equipment used in the water and which can be coated with eggs and adults. Spiny water flea has the capacity to colonize quickly with only a single female. Sexual reproduction produces 'resting eggs' which overwinter, can remain dormant for long periods of time, and may be transported via angling and boating activities.



Since spiny water flea invaded, significant changes to zooplankton communities have occurred in the Great Lakes and many inland lakes, including disappearances of species and declines in species abundance, density, richness, and biomass. Because of intense predation on smaller species by spiny water flea, the smaller native species have undergone a shift to larger species. Other zooplankton predators may be affected directly through competition for food or indirectly because of a shift in prey items available. Small fish have difficulty consuming spiny water flea and larger fish that prey on the species may experience reduced growth rates because the water flea spines are indigestible (accumulate in the stomach) and do not offer any nutritional value.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Zebra mussels were originally introduced by ballast water transported in commercial shipping vessels and on ship hulls. Adults can survive out of water for up to five days at 25°C, however, if the air is humid and cooler at 15°C, they can survive up to 22 days out of water. Young and adult mussels can spread between waterbodies when they are transported in bait buckets, live wells and bilge water or attached to boat hulls/motors/trailers and other equipment (e.g., fishing or scuba gear).

Zebra mussels have spread very quickly in Ontario waters. They normally begin to reproduce when water temperatures warm to around 12°C. Female zebra mussels can produce between 40,000 and 1 million eggs per season. Zebra mussels prefer warm, shallow water, and slow currents.

Zebra mussels form colonies in great densities and filter large quantities of plankton from the water and poses competition for food with native organisms. Dense colonization in a waterbody has been followed by decline or complete loss of native mussels. They effect the community structure of plants and fish as removal of suspended matter from the water leads to an increase in water clarity. Scientists are also finding a link with zebra mussels and the occurrence of toxic blue-green algal blooms.

Zebra mussels pollute swimming areas and cut feet with sharp shells. They are a serious biofouler of water intake pipes causing significant cost and safety concerns to industry and municipal water users.

Invading Species Hotline (1 800-563-7711) is a toll-free Ontario wide number for the public to report sightings or to obtain information on aquatic invasive species.



Boating Etiquette

Did you know that the number one complaint received by Seguin Township is about bad boating behaviour? Several of our members have asked us to do an article on boating etiquette.

Sharing waterways

Recreational boaters should be prepared to share waterways with wildlife, swimmers, divers, other boaters and watercraft ranging from kayaks to float planes. Operators using courtesy and common sense will not create a hazard, threat, stress or be an irritant to others, to the environment or to wildlife.

Everyone is entitled to a safe, fun time on the water so learn the rules and boat by them. Doing so is not just a matter of courtesy; it is the law. Above all, remember that you are responsible for you own wake and any damage done by it. Your boat's wake can negatively impact nesting waterfowl, accelerate shoreline erosion, damage shoreline structure, and cause bodily harm to other boaters or swimmers. You are responsible for the wake of your vessel whether the boat is in a "no wake" zone or not. If your wake damages property or injures people you have broken the law. Slowing down is the obvious solution, especially in narrow channels and near shore.

- **When overtaking a slower vessel** in open water, do so with as much room as depth conditions allow and slow your speed, if necessary, to avoid rocking or swamping the other vessel.
- **Obey the law** and the speed limit of 10 km/ph within 30 m of the shoreline. The one exception to this speed limit is for boats pulling a water skier traveling perpendicular to shore or to pull away or land the skier.
- **Respect your neighbours' tranquility** by moving around the lake rather than operating in just one small area. Use the centre of the lake for towing and higher speed activities.
- **When waterskiing or towing you must have a spotter**, and the vessel must have a seat for each person being towed, in case of recovery (no two-seater personal watercraft). Towing activities are not allowed in the period from one hour after sunset to sunrise, and you should move directly away from the shoreline.
- **Be courteous of other lake users**. Give everyone a wide berth and travel slowly when pulling away from docks, launching ramps or swimming areas.
- **Slow down to 5 km/hr** when approaching non-motorized watercrafts, swimmers, docks, shorelines and wetlands.
- **Protect the environment** by slowing down near sensitive areas and staying out of wetland areas and away from the shoreline.



Boaters and Anglers - You can Help!

1. Inspect your boat, motor, trailer, and boating equipment such as anchors and fishing gear, centerboards, rollers, and axles. Remove any zebra mussels and other animals and plants that are visible before leaving any waterbody.

2. Drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land immediately before leaving the waterbody.

3. Wash or dry your boat, tackle, down-riggers, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch. Some aquatic species can survive more than two weeks out of water.

Therefore, it is important to:

- Rinse your boat and equipment that normally gets wet with hot tap water (greater than 50°C), or
- Spray your boat and trailer with high pressure water (250 psi), or
- Dry your boat and equipment in the sun for at least 5 days before transporting them to another body of water.

Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving any body of water. Never release live bait into water, within 30 m of any water. Do not release aquatic animals from one water body into another.

And, it is illegal to use gobies, rusty crayfish, ruffe or rudd for bait!



Workshop Wednesdays with Edith Fullerton

Edith Fullerton is holding art classes for adults from 9:00 am - noon every Wednesday in her home studio.

Topics include:

- Getting Started: What, When, Where, Why and How
- Back to Basics: Elements of Design: color, shape, value, texture and perspective
Principals of Design: balance, rhythm, emphasis and variety
- Drawing: refresh or learn new skills
- "KISS": Techniques in watercolor; it's easier than it looks!
- "Treasure or Trash": Learn to let go when things don't work out - Move on!

The price is \$25. per workshop. Call 378-5158 to register or email Edie at dandefull@gmail.com

Profile: Marina Adshade

Marina joined the board in 2009.

Thirty years ago, my family came to Horseshoe Lake to visit the Inch family at their cottage on Ellis Island. After a fun weekend of skiing, boating and swimming, we all piled into the boat for a tour of the lake. Shortly into the trip my father announced that he really liked the cottage right across the water from the Inch's. Much to the collective horror of his four children, he decided that since no one seemed to be home, we should dock and take a look around. We crawled up the path to the cottage mortified at my father's complete lack of respect for property rights and started to vociferously complain at the point when he walked right into the cottage. My father must have delighted in all the suffering he inflicted on us that day! After a painful tour of the place, which we all admitted we liked amid pleas of "Now can we *please* go!" he announced that in fact the cottage was ours.

It is hardly the place now that it was all that time ago. For the next 25 years my father worked like a slave on the property, spending more time in his work clothes than in his swimsuit and less time on the dock than in his workshop. He built a new boathouse, put in a new kitchen and bathroom and did a multitude of other jobs at the cottage turning it into the beautiful summer home that my mother shares with me and my two children now.

To some extent, I have taken over the job of resident caretaker, which to a certain degree I enjoy, but I don't forget to enjoy my time there. We are often out on the water, either paddling, pontooning or speeding (but not too fast, I promise!). We like to go to our little island (formally named Sugar Loaf) to have picnics and swim. Dinners on the deck are imperative, even if it is raining a little bit. And best of all, I like to sleep in my hammock down by the glistening water, taking in all the shrieking and laughter that comes off the lake in the summer.



So, I grew up on the lake and my children have grown up on the lake. It is more than just property but is an integral part of our life that to a significant extent defines who we are both as individuals and as a family. It is the place we go to reconnect with each other and remind ourselves of what is important in life. I think you will all agree with me when I say, please God let there be less rain this year.

Who are we?

Bob Overholt
Past President

Frans Brinkman
Director, Virtue Lake Lia-
son

Trevor Wilcox
Director

Fletch Keating
President
Lake Planning

Nancy McMeekan
Communications

Keith Higgins
Director, Water Quality

Janie Thacker
Director, Membership

Dave Fullerton
Treasurer

Keith Page
Director

Marina Adshade
Director