



Mary Lake Association

MARY LAKE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2008

Mission Statement...

1. *To protect the natural environmental health and beauty of Mary Lake and surrounding community.*
2. *To represent issues affecting its membership and their quality of life.*

This mini Newsletter is designed to let you know about issues that can't wait until our regular Newsletter in May.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a campaign that was started by a group in Sydney, Australia last year to force their government to 'sit up and take notice' of global warming. Like any good idea, this one is spreading! This year, it is a global event! It's a simple concept. On Saturday, March 29, 2008, all you have to do is turn your lights off for one hour. That's it! From 8:00 to 9:00 pm, turn off your lights and do something in the dark. For more information see www.wwf.ca/earthhour.

COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL MARKETING (CBSM) WORKSHOP

Community-based Social Marketing teaches workshop participants to use a fundamental behavioural change approach to achieve significant change in environmental behaviours. If you are interested in attending this workshop on **APRIL 23 AND 24, 2008** visit: <http://www.cbsm.com/Workshops/FSBWorkshop.pdf>.



NATIVE TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The Muskoka Heritage Foundation will once again be holding their native tree and shrub sale on Saturday, May 10, 2008. If you are interested in co-ordinating the sale for the Mary Lake Association, please contact Ryan Kidd in the next week or so.

What would be required by an association interested in participating is a coordinator who can pick up the plant stock on the afternoon of Friday, May 9th or the morning of Saturday, May 10th and transport it to a location near their lake where people who have ordered plants can pick them up and pay. The order form would contain a check box for pick up at that location. All orders will be pre-bagged and ready for distribution. The coordinator would then send the money to MHF.

Currently, there are pick up locations in Bracebridge, Huntsville and Bala, and an association pick up in the Ril Lake/Baysville area. If we do not get a co-ordinator, then the pick up location would be Huntsville. The order form will soon be available on the Foundation web site www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed

All plant material is native to Muskoka and much of it is ideal for shoreline areas. This sale is an excellent opportunity for people to enhance or re-naturalize their shoreline at low cost.

Rural Taxation for Town Sewer and Water Costs

Huntsville Mayor Doughty recently suggested that rural residents in the District of Muskoka should help the towns pay for water and sewer. His comments are in articles in the February 6th and 13th 'Forester' and, apparently, supported by others in our District: See below:

<http://www.huntsvilleforester.com/HuntsvilleForester/article/62452>

Since then there have been numerous responses in the Forester. While the manner in which taxes are collected for such things is somewhat confusing, our Association members should realize that we apparently have all been paying into the Pollution Fund ever since Muskoka District was created by the Province. In the Minister's Order and the Muskoka Act ALL ratepayers in Muskoka including those that do not get full sewer and water services, pay into that fund through their property taxes.

Sewers were in the first Act and water was added by the Province a few years later. It was not something District Council initiated, it was a given when they were first elected. It is alleged however, that Council has been very irresponsible over the past few years and apparently reduced the amount extracted by a small portion. Now they need more money for the capital costs of these services so one way is to bring the extraction back to what it was initially and maybe to increase it further.

Despite this your Association together with other area associations is supporting a motion of the Huntsville Lakes Council to oppose this proposal. (see motion below)

Whereas: the District of Muskoka has proposed extending its sewer and water levy to include rural residents;

And Whereas: rural residents already carry a heavy financial burden constructing and maintaining their own services by setting aside money over the 20 - 25 year life of their septic systems to cover the thousands of dollars needed for system replacement and by including in their septic pump-out costs the

fee charged the hauler for lagoon disposal and by spending hundreds of dollars annually to replace pumps, filters, UV lights and other equipment with respect to maintaining a safe water supply;

Therefore, it is recommended that the Huntsville Lakes Council strongly opposes any extension of the sewer and water levy to residents not on municipal services without rebates granted for the total costs residents bear related to their personal sewer and water systems.

Please voice your opinion to our Mayor. You can contact him at:

Claude Doughty mayor@huntsville.ca
57 Lake Drive
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1E7

Councillors: Bill Beatty billb@vianet.ca & Chris Zanetti cbzanetti@sympatico.ca

Navigation Buoys

At this point the funding for the buoys on the Four Lakes including ours, has been dropped from the town budget. The final deliberations about the budget will be made on March 31. Please voice your opinion on this safety issue to our representatives above ASAP.

DAM WALKWAY

Chris Zanetti tells me that the Dam Walkway will be installed in the next couple of weeks. I'm sure that we are all glad that this issue is finally going to be resolved.

MLA Schedule of Meetings

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Saturday, June 14th

Saturday, July 5th Annual General Meeting

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- ❖ WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) www.wraft.com
- ❖ CAPTR (Coalition After Property Tax Reform) www.captr.org.
- ❖ FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations) www.foca.on.ca
- ❖ Muskoka Watershed Council www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed
- ❖ Muskoka Water Web www.muskokawaterweb.ca
- ❖ Port Sydney Utterson Chamber of Commerce www.portsydneycofc.com
- ❖ Huntsville Lakes Council www.huntsvillelakescouncil.org
- ❖ Town of Huntsville www.huntsville.ca

MARY LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

If you know of a fellow cottager or friend who would appreciate receiving a copy of this newsletter please pass

it along or contact us. If you prefer to be removed from this mailing list please let us know.

MLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Last Thought

“Compromise, if not the spice of life, is its solidity. It is what makes nations great and marriages happy.”

Phyllis McGinley

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More info at www.marylakeassociation.org