

## **2006 President's Report to the Annual General Meeting Mary Lake Association**

The focus of the association this year has been our continuing support for the Mary Lake Plan Initiative as it works to supplement the new Official Plan for the Town of Huntsville. Our timing couldn't have been better.

We have not had the blinders on to other issues that concern us such as an application last summer for rezoning to allow a stone cutting operation at Greer Rd. and Highway 11. The intervention of our members at Town Council encouraged council to refuse the application. We continue to monitor the Hutley site for proposed uses.

Our association has joined WRAFT (Waterfront Residents After Fair Taxation) and the added weight that our association and others has given that organization has helped to put pressure on the questionable fairness of MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation). No doubt you have heard about the Ontario Ombudsman's scathing report on MPAC resulting in the government's decision to throw out this year's MPAC assessments. We can collectively make a difference.

We have asked for a mail-in vote in the next municipal election on November 13<sup>th</sup>. You can see enclosed in your tax bill your application for mail-in registration. You are also encouraged to consider voting for the mail-in alternative for everyone in the 2010 election. Seasonal residents take note of how that can improve your voice.

Mary Lake is one of the hundreds of lakes that participate in the Lake Partners Program. In 2005 Mary Lake registered 7.5 micrograms per litre of phosphorus which means we are still oligotrophic, meaning dilute enough to rarely experience an algal bloom. Our Secchi or clarity reading was slightly worse last year, averaging 3.3 metres that we can see down into the lake on a calm day. I hope this relative stability does not lead to complacency because our Port Sydney beach was closed last July for a day because of high coliform count. We have not experienced the toxic algal bloom like Three Mile Lake but we must continue to use lake friendly products, test our water and develop our shoreline buffers which leads to the higher water issue.

We were advised last September by MNR that Mary Lake would not experience any significant change in target water level planned changes by the MRWMP (Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan). Obviously we have had our "Come Uppance". You will learn about our dealings with the MNR later in the meeting.

Our board this reflects the direction we are taking towards including more full time residents. It means we can keep track of local events and respond in a timely way. We have a representative on: the beach committee; the Chamber of Commerce who keeps track of highway exchanges and the Muskoka Community Network; the Huntsville Lakes Council; and the Official Plan Review Committee. Our most important focus has been our input into the various iterations of the OP by attending workshops, meetings and submitting responses to drafts. Today is a day to build consensus on what we have so far so we can endorse some valuable enhancements to the OP. Paul and Rick will be taking you through their Mary Lake Plan draft. My heartfelt gratitude to my board and Rick Wardell and Heather Crawford who have given so much of their time and talents for the sake of the lake.