



see shore NEWS

DECEMBER 2011

What's NEW Inside

This issue of your Lake Vernon See Shore Newsletter is pretty much over-flowing with good stuff. Tracey Rast has the environmental beat covered in her usual thorough way so that what seems to matter most to just about all of us is well represented. We have loons and golf balls, fresh leadership for the LVEA and a short survey that we'd like you to complete and send in (it's about getting focused on the next big project, if any, that we undertake together).

And of course, Rob Laver wants your money! Actually, it's not Rob who wants it, it's just that time of year again to pay your dues and keep your association properly funded for the new year.

LVA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In reviewing my Spring Report on this sunny November day I find I was remarkably accurate on our summer forecast (assisted by Environment Canada). A sunlit lake, balmy temperatures and lush flora greeted us almost every day from June through September. Despite a damp May we topped it off with an outstanding Thanksgiving week. Lake Vernon welcomed water-skiers, kayakers and boarders through to mid October. Is this one of the few positive sides of global warming?

Our AGM in June had a modest attendance of some 30 members, down from our usual 75 plus. I suspect this drop in attendance is transient and reflects the postal strike (our mail outs on June 8th were delayed) and the change in our annual meeting from the Labour Day weekend. I believe the success of our association is not only dependent on Executive leadership but an active membership at large. While not all can attend weekend meetings, an annual personal connection is not only a collegial but a renewal event for volunteer associations. As we move to more contemporary electronic communication, I urge members to periodically log on to our website where significant dates/events will be regularly posted.

Our pilot fish survey, launched at the AGM with both written questionnaires and electronically on our web site was completed by only 16% of LVA households, (23 respondents). While no statistically relevant conclusions can be drawn, 19 members felt fish stocks should be increased, and 12 supported financial contributions by the LVA. The executive will need more information before committing our association to any stocking initiative with the Ministry of Natural Resources. We will share pertinent information on the web and present recommendations at the AGM in June 2012.

Executive activities started last fall with representation to the Ministry of the Environment on

Panolam Industries who planned new hydrocarbon venting of some concern to our members. Ministry approval was delayed while our input was awaited but ultimately granted. Our requests for portable monitoring were not directly addressed. We discovered that the Town of Huntsville had no knowledge of this venting as the air pollution is considered a provincial matter. One more reason to have a vigilant association of cottagers!

Summer activities included running down missing channel buoys which required re-anchoring. One additional buoy was purchased for next years season as the Hunter bay buoy disappeared. Ice movement continues to challenge our channel markers as we formulate strategies to combat Mother Nature.



Our Annual LVA regatta enjoyed magnificent weather and the largest turnout in years. This was fitting as we celebrated our 20th anniversary led by the indomitable Elaine Rea, and her extended family. The BBQ was also a financial success with master chef Ken Sharer on the tongs.

With the "big white" coming soon, I wish to thank the executive for all their energy and contributions to our association. Reports from various committees will follow. I look forward to our spring discussions on the constitution prior to the AGM. On behalf of the executive I wish you and your family a Merry Xmas and a healthy Happy New Year. May 2012 bring copious sunshine and blue skies.

Ian G. Hastie

SHARING THE SHORELINE

Whether you're a full time or part time resident, a cottager or home-owner, a power-boater or kayak enthusiast, one thing we all have in common is the shoreline we share. It is the filter for our lake and the buffer between your life on land and the health of the lake we enjoy. Sharing the shoreline means sharing responsibility for that health. Join us in doing your part today.



Environmental Committee Year End Update – December 2011



by Tracey Rast

Another year comes to an end on beautiful Lake Vernon, and I am happy to note that we have accomplished all but two* of the objectives that the Environmental Committee set out for 2011.

2011 Accomplishments

Mar McBrien completed the check-in with all the families enrolled in our “Restore the Shore” challenge. While we did have some folks who had to bow out for various reasons, there remain six beautiful shorelines that took part in our 2011 challenge. Mar will be keen to share these success stories and images with you at the AGM next year. Participants will be awarded a small plaque in recognition of their commitment to naturalizing their shoreline property. A big “congratulations” goes out to all of them!

With the help of a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers, we paddled, kayaked, and jet-boated every inch of Lake Vernon to update the Land Use Survey. It was a very time-consuming exercise but lots of fun, and it definitely showed us how much the face of our lake has changed in the last 10 years! After the District of Muskoka enters the data in the Spring of 2012, we will have a new picture to share with you and it will highlight what is happening to our lake filter – the land around our lake. Thank-you x 10 to Wilbert Zavitz, Mar McBrien, Heidi & Gordon Card, Rich & Deb Trenholm, Karen Snell & Ian Gerrie, and John Jorgenson from Camp Tawingo!



A smiling Mar McBrien gets a closer look at our shore.

We completed all of our ongoing water quality monitoring. This includes the water clarity or secchi disk measurements conducted by Doug Jagger; the phosphorous sampling done by Peter McBirnie and myself; the invasive species sampling completed by Mar McBrien and myself; and the benthic macro invertebrate sampling done by Mar McBrien and students from Tawingo College. Combining this with the chemical analysis completed by the District, we intended to have a water quality summary report* to share with you in this year-end newsletter. We will work to complete this over the winter so it will be in good shape by the June meeting – another good reason to get to the AGM.

Plans for 2012

In addition to creating a summary of Lake Vernon’s water quality information, we also had planned to establish a *facebook page to provide a discussion and information-sharing forum; this too, will be a winter project. The Environmental Committee will virtually meet over the next several months to discuss new projects to tackle in the coming year. Feel free to send your thoughts or suggestions to me @ traceyrast@vianet.ca, or call me on **705 789 3337**. In the meantime, you may want to pencil a few events into your calendar for early next year:

2012 Stewardship Conference in April

Muskoka Summit on the Environment - 2012

Biodiversity Summit in June.

Further details will be made available on the Muskoka Watershed Council web site, as well as the Lake Vernon website in due course.

Passing the Baton – Lake Vernon Environmental Association

In 2002, the Lake Vernon Environmental Association (LVEA) was formed as a corporation and not-for-profit charity. To say that the LVEA is important is an understatement. The LVEA is how your Lake Association funds major projects and gives charitable receipts - it’s how we get the job of lake stewardship and protection paid for.

At the Lake Vernon Association (LVA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on the 18th of June 2011, the membership was informed that three of the four existing LVEA Board members were to step down in December after dedicating extended terms of faithful service. After the AGM some new faces were invited to attend the next meeting held by the LVEA. As a result of that meeting, three batons were passed. Current President, Rob Laver will be followed by Sondra Van Dolder. Current Secretary/ Treasurer Gary Lintern will be followed by Margaret Mah. Current Director Linda McBirnie will be followed by Tracey Rast.

And current Director John Jorgenson remains as the anchor runner. We cannot begin to thank Rob, Gary and Linda enough for their years of committed dedication and their gracious offer to remain close by through this transition.

Your new LVEA Board of Directors are poised for that moment when the next major project is brought forward. We will work hard on your behalf, anticipating profound outcomes, as... ***Together, we share the responsibility of preserving the natural beauty of Lake Vernon’s shoreline.***

The LVEA would like to gratefully acknowledge those members who have generously donated to our lake’s success since our last newsletters publication: Michael & Donna Mc Nerney and Camp Tawingo.



2011 Water Quality Report



The 2011 water quality results are contained in the attached table. The measurements are in metres from the water surface to the top of the disc. Measurement procedures are standardized. The secchi disc readings actually measure water clarity which is an indication of quality. The greater the depth is then the better the quality is in general and vice versa.

In 2011 there was an overall decline in water clarity. It is noted that at SW4 the water clarity in 2011 was the same as the last 2 years. Since measurements commenced in 1991, the water clarity has

been cyclic. The 2011 results are within the cycles. Based on a linear regression analysis, there is a long term trend towards improved water clarity at each location except at SW2 where there is a slight trend to decreased water quality.

For comparison, the clarity on September 10 in Penn Lake was 6.8 m at 2 locations and in Fairy Lake was 3.9 m near the centre. These depths exceeded those at all the locations in Lake Vernon for the same period.

SECCHI DISK RESULTS

YEAR	LOCATION				
	SW1	SW2	SW3	SW4	SW5
1991		4.0*			
1993		1.5*			
1994		2.4*			
1995		3.2*			
1996		2.9*			
1997		3.5*			
1998	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.4
1999	2.3	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.6
2000	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5
2001	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8
2002	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.5
2003	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.2
2004	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.5
2005	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.9
2006	2.5	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.2
2007	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.2
2008	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1
2009	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.1
2010	2.9	2.9*	2.8	2.4*	2.4*
2011	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4*	2.4*

Notes:

- SW1 West side of Big Island
- SW2 Between Gallauger Island and Camp Wabanaki
- SW3 Mouth of Big East River
- SW4 Peacock Bay
- SW5 Mouth of Hoodstown Rapids
- * District of Muskoka Data

Doug Jagger



Looking forward instead of back



Most of the information in this semi-annual Lake Vernon Newsletter is a look back on Association activities, environmental reports and a preview of upcoming special events. All as it should be.

But let's depart a little from the norm and cast our collective imaginations a little further out into the future. When we do that, as with the Lake Plan and the Water Quality Survey, we achieve great things together.

It's time to think forward again. So here's a short questionnaire with most of the questions being an open-ended opportunity for you to contribute ideas as you see fit. There are no promises implied here - what we're after is a sense of direction and focus for the future.

The theme is simple: What big challenges or opportunities do you want your Lake Association to take on next? That's assuming

we'll continue with water quality and shoreline restoration projects as planned.

Complete the questionnaire here and mail it in to the Lake Vernon Association, P.O. Box 5160, Huntsville, ON, P1H 2K6. Or copy the questions and email your answers to lva@lake-vernon.ca. Or visit the web site at www.lake-vernon.ca and complete the form online; you'll see it highlighted and linked on the home page.

Your feedback will be used to direct us in the future and give us a pipeline to projects that matter most to everyone on Lake Vernon.

Thanks in advance for your feedback - have a great winter!

Gary Lintern



Looking forward instead of back

(1) In your opinion, what are the top three challenges facing Lake Vernon property owners?

(2) What are the top two or three challenges facing Lake Vernon's environment (water, shoreline, wildlife, vegetation, etc.)?

(3) As a citizen of the Town of Huntsville proper, what challenges do we face in the context of our larger community (from the Lake Vernon perspective)?

(4) What new or next 'big project' should the Lake Vernon Association take on (no limits for the purposes of this survey)?

(5) What do you like best about owning property on Lake Vernon?

(5A) What distinguishes Lake Vernon from other lakes in the Muskokas?

(6) Does the prospect of no Marina (shared retail and gas space and public mooring) on Lake Vernon concern you? If so, what would you do to change it?

(7) If you could change anything about Lake Vernon (within the scope of reality), what would you change (evolve, improve, protect)?





Lake Vernon Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.lake-vernon.ca

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone #: _____
Email: _____

Lake Vernon Address:
Same as above _____ or:

Address: _____
Telephone #: _____

Cost is \$30 per family per calendar year
(January 1 through December 31)
Make Cheques payable to:
Lake Vernon Association
and mail to:
P.O. Box 5160,
Huntsville, ON, P1H 2K6

YES! I would also like to donate to the Lake Vernon Environmental Association:

Please make a separate cheque payable to:
Lake Vernon Environmental Association
and mail it to the address above. Tax receipts
will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Membership

It's that time of year again! Membership for 2011 expires at the end of next month. For those of you who have not renewed your 2012 membership, now is the perfect time. Memberships run with the calendar year; January to December. Please see the membership sign-up form in this newsletter for details. Association membership continues to be strong. Currently we are 143 members, including 11 new members.

If you have a neighbour who is new to the lake, please do not hesitate to 'talk-up' the Lake Association with them. Membership brochures are available on our website at <http://www.lake-vernon.ca/join-us.html>.

Many thanks to those of you who have gone door-to-door and dock-to-dock in support of the LVA membership, your efforts have helped the LVA continue to grow.

2011 LAKE VERNON LOON SURVEY

Based on the observations of myself with the assistance of others, I was not able to say conclusively that there was a breeding pair of loons on Lake Vernon this year. Although some people did report young, I could not verify. It is noted that this survey is scientific and thus must be based on fact. Data if erroneous are misleading and if inconsistent with established breeding habits for loons can affect our credibility with Bird Studies Canada.

Please note that Robinson Lake is not part of the survey area due to access issues.

The Lake Vernon results were submitted to Bird Studies Canada to form part of their data base.

I will continue to conduct the survey next year. All input is appreciated.

Doug Jagger

GOLF TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP

A threesome, comprised of Jürgen Schutz, Glen Skidmore, and Perry Graham won bragging rights at this year's LVA Golf Tournament. The annual event, held August 13th at North Granite Ridge, brings together golf-minded Lake Vernon Association members and their friends for a day of fellowship. Thanks to all who participated in the Charity Putting Contest, a monetary donation was made to Huntsville's Animal Shelter.

Regards,

Terry (the golf tournament guy)



Annual General Meeting Minutes & News



Welcome

Ian Hastie welcomed members and guests, about 26 in all. He apologized for holding the AGM on the Fathers' Day weekend as this and the change of date from fall to spring probably accounted for the low attendance. Most of those present had received a hard copy of the June, 2011 newsletter despite the postal strike and lockout.

He thanked John Jorgenson most sincerely for the hospitality that Camp Tawingo has shown yet again to the LVA.

Regrets for absence were received from Executive members Gary Lintern, Don McKercher and Elaine Rea

APPROVAL of MINUTES of the previous AGM in September. Motion moved by Carl Heck, seconded by Ken Sharer.

President's report

At the executive meeting in April 2011 there was discussion of revisions to the LVA constitution. The draft will be posted online for comment and the draft will be ready for approval at the next AGM.

A one time donation and plaque are being presented to Camp Tawingo to show our appreciation.

A fish stocking survey questionnaire is being used to assess interest in fishing on Lake Vernon and those present were asked to complete it if they hadn't done so online.

Regarding the issue of boat speeds and shoreline wash, education is the best strategy but if members know of those who violate speed limits they are advised to get the boat registration number and contact the OPP. It was agreed that the brochure Wake Up, Slow Down would be posted online and copies would be made available at relevant locations such as Peacock Bay Marina, Canadian Tire.

Committee Reports

Membership – Rob Laver. Membership continues to hold strong. In 2010 we ended the year with 149 member families. So far this year we are at 137 members. Given that this meeting is being held three months earlier than last year, I'm optimistic that we will meet or exceed last year's numbers.

Of course we always need help doing this and if anyone is interested in helping out the membership committee such as by going door to door with brochures in your neighbourhood, please contact me.

Communications – Rob for Gary Lintern. We finally got around to the last big change in communications and that was updating the newsletter. If you've seen it, thank Canada Post. If you haven't seen it thank Canada Post. It is posted on the web site and digital copies have been forwarded to those who requested it. Thanks mostly to Martha for pulling all the stories together.

Otherwise, the process of communicating and responding to your emails seems to be running smoothly. Thanks to Shawn Gibson for keeping the web site on track. I understand he'll also be helping

Tracey Rast (or the Environmental Committee and anyone else who's interested in that pursuit) to get a Facebook page up and running.

If you have any ideas, suggestions and the time to implement them, we're all ears.

Treasurer – Bill Marshall. Before advising the figures for this year, I should mention the period covered is from Sept 2010 to the present, nine months as opposed to twelve months in previous years. I am pleased to advise the current balance in our account is \$9,300 as opposed to \$7,700 in September 2010.

During the past nine months we received \$3,990 in subscriptions, as compared to \$4,500 in the previous twelve month period. Disbursements during the past nine months are \$1,451 for liability insurance, \$1,000 contribution to the Lake Vernon Environmental Association which was used to assist in planting trees at the Home Depot, \$111 donation to the Huntsville Hospital which amount was raised during the golf tournament, and \$85 in sundry expenses. We also disbursed \$738 for signage around the lake and \$1,272 for navigation markers.

Some expenses we did not yet incur are \$482 for communications, \$300 for the Regatta and \$200 for the golf tournament. Going forward our annual known expenses are approximately \$3,500 so if we collect around \$4,500 in subscriptions we should have a reasonable cushion for unforeseen events and new initiatives.

Huntsville Lakes Council and Lake of Bays – Ken Sharer. This has been a quiet year with a continuing struggle with organization of the council. There is nothing major to report. It has a challenging future. It is confronted with too many projects with too few people to carry them out.

Golf Tournament – Terry Smith. Every year we hold a fairly non-competitive 9-hole golf tournament in mid August, on the second Saturday, which this year is August 14th. It will be at North Granite Ridge with dinner to follow. Non-Golfers may come for the dinner. 40 – 60 people usually participate. Photos of previous events are on the LVA web site.

Environmental Committee Report – Tracey Rast, chair of the Environmental Committee and Lake Steward made an environmental update presentation using PowerPoint:

We are continuing with existing water quality monitoring, but wish to enhance it.

Current LVA monitoring includes:

- Water clarity (secchi depth measurements) (continuous)
- Phosphorous sampling (May)
- Invasive species monitoring (June/July)
- Benthic macro-invertebrate sampling (May)
- Water level marker - needs new home! (continuous)

There is other monitoring that we could be doing BUT investment in equipment may be needed; Volunteers for sampling are required.

This year we hope to provide you with our own Lake Vernon Report Card of water health, summarizing available data.



Annual General Meeting Minutes & News



Last Year We Kicked Off the “Restore the Shore” Challenge.

Objective: To encourage residents to restore their shoreline (do nothing or active rehabilitation).

Check-in: “after” will be reviewed during the last week of August 2011. Successful participants will be acknowledged with a small bronze shoreline plaque.

Mar, one of the LVA EC members kicked off her own Restore the Shore project at the Tawingo College, as part of their outdoor program. FYI for those of you not familiar with Tawingo, it is designated as an Eco School.

She worked with Robert Allen of Northway Gardens to plan the project; all indigenous plants were purchased through Northway Gardens. Note: both Robert Allen and Tim Cantelon of Sandhill have offered their services free to create plans for shoreline restoration for LVA members.

For actual AGM notes, a great map and photos regarding the shoreline challenge, please visit the Lake Vernon web site.

This year we will be updating the Land Use Survey, last completed in 2002.

There are many ways to learn more about our local environment:

Muskoka Watershed Council is hosting a lecture series:

Revealing Nature’s Hidden Economic Benefits (May 19)

Research in Muskoka’s Lakes by DESC Scientists (July 21)

Climate Change Adaptation (October 20)

Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship & Muskoka Heritage Foundation & Ontario Forestry Assn. are offering a series of “Nature Quest” workshops:

Hike Up Your Tree ID IQ (July 5)

I Brake for Turtles! Muskoka Species at Risk (July 12)

Batty About Bats (July 19)

Woodlot Management and Tree Selection (July 26)

More information is available on-line.

Acknowledged all Environmental Committee members:

Brad Allen	Gary Lintern
Marc Bajzik	Mar McBrien
Martha Cepuch	Brad Simpson
Doug Funston	Craig Simpson
Evelyn Funston	John Watson
Carl Heck	Paul Wilson
Doug Jagger	Wilbert Zavitz
Gillian Gibson	

Join the LVA EC!

Elections – Carl Heck

Our existing constitution calls for only three elected positions on the Board of the LVA, namely the President, Treasurer and Vice-President. Other members of the Executive are appointed. The term of office is two years. All present members of the Executive have indicated they would let their names stand for re-election.

However, Gary Lintern, currently Vice-President has indicated he would fill the position of VP but does not want to assume the position of President. At some point Ian Hastie will step down as President and the new president should have a minimum of two years experience and exposure to the running of the LVA before taking over leadership. So if any of the Executive or any other member would like to come forward to as a candidate for VP, this election is the time to do it. So I invite nominations from the floor for President, VP, and Treasurer.

As nobody has been nominated the current Board membership stands. Moved Peter McBirnie, Seconded Wilbert Zavitz.

Other Business

Lights on the new Honda Dealership are visible at night. A light control could be imposed at the planning stage, with Honda using only downlights, which it needs for security there.

Peter McBirnie said the Town still had not incorporated buffering into the site plan policy. He had met with Chris Marshall, Director of Planning in the Town who will not support any application for variance unless there is a benefit for the environment. Now is the time for us to meet with him to enlist a new policy on buffering.

The LVA Executive will discuss this and can also ask Jason Armstrong, manager of Honda, to reduce the lights. Gordon Card volunteered to help.

Anyone with information for the Loon Survey should send information about sightings to Ian. Tracey will be installing Loon Alert signs near nesting sites.

Termination.

Ian thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

End of minutes.