



What's **NEW** for **2013!**

- See Land Use Survey Results inside: Just completed!
- It's election year and there are many members of the LVA executive who have been working on your behalf for over ten years. Time to step up out there! btw - this may not be new, BUT IT IS REALITY.
- The 2013 AGM will be held in June again this year. We'll announce the dates as soon as we pin it down. Same goes for the Regatta in July, the Near Classic Golf Tourney in August and the newly improved LVA Car Rally in September. You're going to need a social booking agent to keep up.
- It's time to pay your membership again. \$30 - a small price to pay for a well-cared-for lake and environmentally active association.

WHAT AM I?



Identify this fish species and you could win Lake Vernon Wear for your whole family!

This fish was caught by Shawn Hetherington of North Court near Hoodstown last Spring. Shawn's never seen one this big; actually, he'd heard they can be found in lakes with Walleye, but had never seen one in Vernon.

Now it's your turn. Identify the species. And send your answer to lva@lake-vernon.ca by January

30. We'll put all the names with correct answers in a virtual drum and one lucky family will get kitted out head to toe (sort of) in the ever-popular, fresh from New York runways, Lake Vernon Wear.

Identify the fish, email your answer to lva@lake-vernon.ca and win for the entire family today!

LAKE VERNON ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall/Winter 2012

For the second year running LVA members have relished a brilliant summer with unlimited sunshine and very little rain. While some trees have suffered on hillsides, mercifully we have been spared significant forest fires. In kindred spirit, our fly population shifted north, permitting full enjoyment of our magnificent outdoors. Now in early November as I write this report, a solitary canoeist is enjoying the sunshine and mirror-like water for a last paddle, skirting the skim of ice on the quiet shoreline, this bright but chilly morning.

Your executive met on Thanksgiving weekend to review the year and plan for 2013. As many of you will know, we had another successful regatta and BBQ under blue skies. This was our 21st and for some families three generations were participants. Our "Near Classic" golf tournament in August was attended by 36 members and held at Huntsville Downs. We dodged the rain showers and all finished relatively dry for a steak and chicken dinner. Unfortunately, initial interest in our first car rally

Environmental Committee Year End Update – December 2012



by Tracey Rast

HOT OFF THE PRESS – data is now available from our **2012 Land Use Survey!** The area monitored for Lake Vernon now includes the shores all the way through Huntsville to Fairy Lake, so comparisons to historical data are difficult. That said, we should note some of the current high-level statistics:

- **81.8% of our shoreline is natural.** This sounds good, but compares less favourably to the 88% reported for all Huntsville Lakes in the 2010 Muskoka Watershed Council report card. On a positive note, the largest shoreline composition/categories for our shore are “wetland” (26%) and shrubs (26.5%).
- **There are 694 shoreline structures on Lake Vernon.** While clearly, the fewer structures the better, our most common type are floating docks (38% of total), which cause the least disruption to underwater land and vegetation.
- **67% of our backlot is natural** (i.e., 20 meters in from the shoreline). This seems to compare favourably with the Huntsville Lakes report card with a 44% result for the riparian area.

Based on these results, it is clear that there remains potential to “restore the shore” and increase the richness of wildlife habitat in and around our lake and, ultimately, improve the quality of our water. If you are interested in participating in our ongoing initiative to restore shorelines, please feel free to contact Mar McBrien (mar.muskoka@hotmail.com) or myself (traceyrast@vianet.ca).

This summer we were pleased to participate in a joint research initiative, including Fairy, Peninsula and Vernon lakes, and led by Dr. Colin Yates, of the local environmental campus of the University of Waterloo. During the course of July, eight sites in Lake Vernon were sampled on two occasions to measure several elements (i.e., conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, orthophosphate, secchi depth, temperature). The findings indicate that overall our water is assessed to be of high quality. However, of the elements measured, three of them were *slightly outside* the Provincial Water Quality Standard (PWQS) at some of the sites. Below is a summary of the out of standard metrics, along with possible causes and potential effects:

pH (a measure of acid concentration)	orthophosphate (soluble form of phosphate)	ammonia (soluble form of nitrogen)
PWQS minimum is 6.5; Vernon sample ranges: 6.23 – 6.81	PWQS maximum is .2mg/l; Vernon sample ranges: .13 - .63	PWQS maximum is .02mg/l; Vernon sample ranges: <.01 – .07
common cause: acid rain	possible cause: use of soaps/detergents	possible cause: out of date or improperly maintained septic systems
potential effect: can stress fish and other aquatic animals	potential effect: increased plant growth	potential effect: increased plant growth

Further research is required to better understand the precise causes of the out-of-standard results. We are looking forward to working with the University again in 2013 to further this initial phase of research. Feel free to contact me if you would be interested in viewing the details of the report.

In addition to the aforementioned work, the Environmental Committee continued our ongoing water quality monitoring (secchi, benthic macroinvertebrate, phosphorous, calcium, invasive species). These results are not yet available to share with you but will be presented at Lake Vernon’s AGM in the Spring.

There are a number of additional initiatives that we would like to tackle in 2013 and need the help of some enthusiastic volunteers! Please contact me if you are keen to take an active role at: traceyrast@vianet.ca.

2012 Water Quality Report



The 2012 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. These readings are not intended to replace laboratory analysis.

In 2012 there was an overall improvement in water clarity. Since measurements commenced in 1991, the water clarity has been

cyclic. Peaks, that is greater depth indicating better water clarity, have occurred in 1991, 1999, 2005 and 2012. The interval is approximately 7 years. The 2012 results are within the cycles. Based on a linear regression analysis, there is a long term trend towards improved water clarity at each location.

I did not check Fairy or Penn Lakes this year though historically water clarity is usually better in these lakes than in Lake Vernon.

Doug Jagger

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	2.3
2012	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.8

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



This Way To The Beach

by Gary Lintern

When I was a kid, great memories seemed to grow naturally around beaches. Easy swimming, castles, volleyball, cookouts and so much more. Beaches are famous for the good times they inspire. Beaches are where people gather, where kids get to be kids and where adults can dabble in childlike behaviour too.

Lake Vernon has several beaches, but one in particular is open to us all and worth the trip by boat or car. Hutcheson is a great place to swim with the family. And it has the potential to be even better. As an association, we could choose to help it along if we like. We have the resources; we need the collective will. New equipment for the children, better facilities, BBQs - our collective imaginations could initiate great things and we could do it within a positive environmental context. Even better

We'll be discussing Hutcheson at the AGM this Spring. If you are interested in learning more before that, get in touch by emailing lva@lake-vernon.ca

2012 LAKE VERNON LOON SURVEY

Based on my observations, 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 a single sighting of 2 adults with a large young near the end of August. 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

LVA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

2013 is an election year for the LVA Executive. We are encouraging our Association Members to SERIOUSLY consider joining the LVA Board. Many of the board members have served for many years, some for 15 to 20 years. It is time for new blood and new ideas. It is also a time where some board members are saying that they have served long enough and are ready to retire.

There is a distinct possibility that if we do not have people step up this year, the executive could be without leadership and committee chairs within 2 years. This will spell the demise of all the hard work that has been carried out over the many years by your previous Associations Executives.

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waned and it had to be cancelled. We plan to organize it again for the full fall colours and conclude the rally with dinner at a local Huntsville restaurant, preferably one on the Lake. (A last boat-ride?) Non-Rallyers are therefore invited for our final social event.

The executive along with our Lake steward and environmental committee continues to monitor lake and watershed activities as well as building applications. A recent application to MNR to dredge the channel into Robinson Lake was rejected as it was considered provincially sensitive wetland. Accompanied by Ken Sharer, our HLOBC representative, I met with the Director of Planning for the Town and cordially requested the enforcement of the Town's by-laws as well as LVA notifications for significant projects. He expressed support for our environmental mission and our vigilance. In a similar vein, the executive are supporting the Muskoka Conservancy for bequests in extending and protecting our natural watershed and forests.

A proposed initiative to improve Hutcheson Beach was approved with the expectation of seeking Town and volunteer partnership with a small working group. Those of us on the lake have a personal appreciation of our good fortune with ready lake access. An improved public shoreline has benefits for both the Town and the LVA.

Some thirty LVA members have taken up the group offer by Moore Propane and should enjoy significant savings. Finally our treasury is healthy and permits a full year with some modest shoreline projects consistent with our mission.

On behalf of your Executive I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and a healthy active time in the approaching winter's wonderland known as Muskoka. Please keep your eye on our website for all 2013 events.

Sincerely,

Ian G. Hastie
President

The Lake Vernon Association is a vital element in your enjoyment of Lake Vernon. Each one of us has a responsibility to do our share to protect and nurture the water quality, safety, and controlled development of the lake.

We'd appreciate your participation sooner than later. See you at the Annual Meeting. Or connect with me by emailing lva@lake-vernon.ca

Carl Heck
LVA Past President



Membership - Renew Today!



It's that time of year again! Membership for 2012 expires at the end of next month. For those of you who have not renewed your 2013 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 155 members, including 22 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 www.lake-vernion.ca.

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.

Finally, I would like to ask for your assistance. After more than 7 years as your membership coordinator, I am looking to step aside and let some new blood take over. If you are interested in getting involved with the LVA, this is a perfect opportunity. The amount of time required of you is minimal, it involves a couple of trips to the post office and bank per month. You will maintain the membership database and be involved with the LVA executive.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email us at lva@lake-vernion.ca



Lake Vernon Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.lake-vernion.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.

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.

