



Dress your family in high Vernon fashion for FREE just by being the most prolific contributor to the Lake Vernon Facebook page this winter.

We'll keep count at this end - you keep posting and adding comments at your end. The association member (excluding LVA Board types) with the most posts will earn a complete set of Lake Vernon wear for their immediate family.

MACRO INVERTEBRATE, DISSOLVED OXYGEN, CHANGING FACES AND OTHER COOL ENVIRONMENTAL STUFF...

Environmental Committee Year End Update 2013

Congratulations to Tracey Rast as she moves to the Vice President position representing the Lake Vernon Association. Mar McBrien began her duties in the fall of 2013 as the new Chairperson of the Environment Committee.

Accomplishments

"Restore the Shore" Challenge recognized two waterfront landowners at the AGM in June. The Crawford/Bergeron residence naturalized their shoreline by extensively planting indigenous species. Their shoreline is beautiful. The Gottlieb family has a stunning rocky shoreline that they have left to regenerate naturally for the last seven years. Congratulations to all participants.

The Environmental Committee continued our ongoing water quality monitoring (secchi, benthic macroinvertebrate, phosphorous, calcium, invasive species). Thank you to all volunteers

for their hard work and time that went into these important programs. The Environmental Committee also recognizes the dedicated long-term work of Doug Jagger who has been conducting Bird Studies Canada's Canadian Lakes Loon Survey since 2004 as well as a more recent Ice Watch program for the last four years. Doug's data has been used in the past such as secchi disk results in the Lake Vernon Water Quality Report (2008) and long-term data like this will be used in future water quality initiatives as well.

Dr. Colin Yates supervised another Lakes Associations Water Quality Study for Fairy, Peninsula and Lake Vernon this past summer. Researchers Melody Fraser and Curtis Mosier of the University of Waterloo tested for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, nitrate, nitrite, reactive phosphorous and total phosphorus at eight sites on Lake Vernon on two occasions in July.

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LAKE VERNON ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT November 2013

For many LVA members the challenges of severe spring floods gave way to a summer that never really was. While we all enjoyed some hot weeks along with a brief Indian summer we certainly contributed to improving Great Lakes water levels! Flood warnings again resurfaced on November 1st with a damaging major storm that produced widespread power outages, lasting for 1 – 2 days in the greater Huntsville area. Subsequent Lake Vernon water levels were at spring heights for two weeks with flood warnings. It is no surprise that residents were soberly pondering the coming winter predictions – more weather turbulence in sight.

Ian spotted this vehicle near the plants on Aspidin Rd. He stopped to talk to the scientist on board. It appears they had requests from Central office for mobile monitoring which was our LVA request last year. They usually spend most days in Sarnia area so maybe we were successful? Results available in 2014



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Estate Planning:



Don't Forget the Muskoka Conservancy!

The most important thing you can do for children, grand and great-grand children, is to protect the environment in its natural state. The larger - the better. We are blessed to be here in Muskoka. It is one of the most beautiful places in the world. We are also lucky to have the Muskoka Conservancy to provide us with the means to protect this magnificent land. Their mandate is to nurture, conserve, and protect Muskoka's natural and built heritage for future generations.

The Muskoka Conservancy provides comprehensive environmental stewardship and outreach programs as well as land protection. There are over 200 active volunteers, and almost all resources are committed to stewardship projects, land conservation, and community outreach. The Muskoka Conservancy protects over 1,800 acres of sensitive wetlands, forests, rock barrens, and 34,000 feet of Muskoka's shorelines. The organization is committed to working with communities toward a resilient and sustainable Muskoka.

When estate planning, consider protecting your legacy by entrusting the Muskoka Conservancy with stewarding this beautiful distinctive landscape for generations to come. For more information please call **(705) 645-7393** or visit the Muskoka Conservancy's website www.muskokaconservancy.org

A New Shoreline Stewardship Program

A two-year \$113,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation made it possible for the Muskoka Conservancy and the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) to join forces to create a new shoreline stewardship program.

This partnership will build community-wide awareness of the inextricable link between shoreline issues and water quality issues. The funding will support work toward shoreline quality improvement and wildlife habitat connectivity, reduce human impact on lake and river water quality, and empower landowners to undertake simple shoreline restoration projects.

One key strategy to improve water quality in our lakes is education. Thus, the Muskoka Conservancy is offering free public seminars and site visits for a variety of topics such as erosion. To learn more about the Shoreline Stewardship Program, become a member, donate, volunteer or sign up for a workshop, please call **(705) 645-7393** or visit the Muskoka Conservancy's website www.muskokaconservancy.org



Introducing the Lake Vernon Association Environment Committee for 2014.

Energy, diversity and communities are three key ecological principles essential for a vibrant and healthy ecosystem. They are also key characteristics for an environmental committee! We are thrilled to welcome an exceptional collection of expertise, talent and energy on the committee this coming year. George Crawford, Peter Gottlieb, Rick Keevil, Anne Lindsay, Mar McBrien and Tracey Rast have already hit the ground running by attending to important environmental issues

raised by members. Their combined strengths and contributions to environmental monitoring and relevant projects will help further the objectives of the Lake Vernon Association. Anyone is welcome to join the environment committee anytime. Please contact Mar (mar.muskoka@hotmail.com).

2013 Water Quality Report



by Doug Jagger

The 2013 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 2013 secchi disc readings were taken 8 times in the afternoon in the shadow of the boat. There was an overall decline in water clarity this year. 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. After each peak year there has been a sharp decline in water clarity. This year's results are consistent with the historic patterns. 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.

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
2013	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5

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

These eight sites will be used in future years to ensure consistency when detecting changes in water quality over time. Data from this year's analysis will be integrated with previous years' results to provide a long-term water quality assessment of each lake.

As a long term monitoring program, the interpretation of these results are meant to give general insight on potential sources, impacts and solutions to water quality issues. In the interim, George Crawford was consulted for a snap-shot interpretation of the results. Please refer to the LVA website to view his report.

Members of the Environmental Committee strive to expand their science-based knowledge on a variety of topics. One way we do this is to attend as many environment-related presentations as possible, out of pocket, throughout the year. For example, the Muskoka Watershed Council and the Environmental Lecture Series at the Waterloo Summit Centre provide a forum to stimulate discussion on issues important to watershed health. Highlights from the year include, the Muskoka Stewardship Conference (including workshops on algae, citizen science, Lake System Health Program, and interpreting water quality data), What Is In Your Water by George Crawford and Dr. Sonya Kleywegt, the Canadian Forestry Association presentation, and Shoreline and Erosion in October and Canadian Geese presentations by the Muskoka Conservancy in November. We are happy to share what we have learned with any interested members.

If you have any questions or comments about ongoing initiatives by the Environment Committee, or you wish to join us, please feel free to contact Mar McBrien (mar.muskoka@hotmail.com) or Tracey Rast (traceyrast@vianet.ca).

2013 LAKE VERNON LOON SURVEY

by Doug Jagger

Based on my observations, another year has gone by without a confirmed sighting of a young loon or loons on Lake Vernon. Early in the summer I did sight a single loon at various times and locations and then later on two adults at the same time. One of the adults lingered on into September. The observations suggest that we did have a breeding pair of loons on the lake which in itself is good news. Unfortunately no young were raised. The reason for nesting failure is uncertain but could be a number of situations such as boat wake or predation. 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 have communicated with the environmental committee regarding the use of nesting platforms to increase the potential for nesting success. Further discussions will ensue over the winter. I will continue to conduct the survey next year. All input is appreciated.

With the stuttering summer start, LVA members had quieter social lake activities with a modest turnout for our annual Hutcheson Beach Regatta. Our Near Classic Golf Tournament held at North Granite Ridge was enjoyed by all, including young family members. Despite the enthusiasm of several passionate car rally buffs, numbers were again too low to proceed with this event. The Executive has concluded that a different format for a social event in late summer/early fall may be required.

At a busy Executive meeting on Thanksgiving weekend we welcomed our new Vice President, Tracey Rast. Tracey has vacated the chair of our Environmental Committee, a position she has filled for several years with energy and great distinction. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified replacement in Mar McBrien, affectionately known as MoNa – Mother Nature, by her students. What could be more appropriate for our LVA Environment Committee!

Ken Sharer has joined the board of the Lake Vernon Environmental Committee, which is the registered charity attached to the LVA, and he will bring his analytical prowess to future projects.

Our executive meeting re-confirmed our commitment to the Town of Huntsville in assisting with the refurbishing of the Hutcheson Beach. We will commence in the spring, and commend the Town who have made a great beginning in restoring this prime public beach. The Town has also developed a by-law which we believe will enhance natural shorelines, a major LVA initiative.

In reviewing our mission two topics received considerable executive discussion. The first was a novel proposal that we explore the feasibility of improving service to boat owners at Peacock Bay. We perceive that current Marina functions are diminishing, affecting many members especially those on Big Island. While no final decision on this proposal was taken, the Executive approved further study and dialogue with the owners.

Secondly, we considered the "quality of life" mission of our membership in discussing local health care. There was strong agreement that our Lake community benefits both financially (property values) and personally (individual care) in having a successful hospital with modern technology. The Executive approved a significant donation to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation and authorized the LVA President to continue consultation with our neighbouring lake associations to find strategies to support the Hospital. LVA members are encouraged to consider their own support to this critical component of our environment.

Lastly, the Executive approved a donation to the Muskoka Conservancy that oversees four undeveloped land areas in the Lake Vernon Watershed, preserving our natural environment for present and future generations.

On behalf of the Executive, I wish you all an early Seasons Greetings and my hopes for a healthy and benign winter.

Ian G. Hastie MD
President



Membership Report



It's that time of year again! Membership for 2013 expires at the end of next month. For those of you who have not renewed your 2014 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 158 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 www.lake-vernon.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.

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



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.

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.





