



From The Board of Directors:

Winter greetings to all, and a warm welcome to property owners who are new to the lake and Bonnechere River.

We thank our members and volunteers for their past support, and we ask that property owners respond to the ongoing importance of having the RLPOA in place to provide a voice for the lake and to maintain the programs that are of benefit to all. New members will receive hand-delivered coloured maps of the lake, over the summer.

2010 presents both continued and fresh challenges, most described in this newsletter. Round Lake property owners' support through membership fees, participation in fund raising activities, and volunteerism will be more essential than ever.

A role of prime importance for your association is representing the lake in various issues and negotiations. Although the RLPOA cannot ever satisfy everyone regarding the positions taken or the extent of involvement, our large board of directors endeavours to make prudent decisions for the benefit of the lake in general.

Please review the short summary of activities opposite. We hope that you will deem some, if not all of the RLPOA efforts to be worth the **modest \$20.00 membership fee**. Please also see the mail-in sheet's list of our many **volunteer needs**. These include vacant board positions: A secretary is required, as are shoreline directors to represent a number of areas on the lake.

Your association will continue its work on behalf of Round Lake and the Bonnechere, to the best of our ability. But—the extent to which we can do so will depend on your membership and volunteer response.

**We Highly Recommend That
Round Lake Property Owners Register and
Update Their Contact Info With
The RLPOA!**

This includes property owners on the Bonnechere River between the lake and the Tramore dam. It is **extremely important** that we have your postal and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers, so we can send you short-notice messages and emergency notifications. We do not share your info with any outside organization, and within our own it's strictly on a Board-approved need-to-know basis. We are careful to "blind copy" emails.

Newsletter Winter 2010

Why Join The RLPOA?

Your fees and volunteer power support many RLPOA activities and programs.

- **Stewardship Program:** monitors lake water quality; provides environmental education to all property owners on the lake.
- **Safety Program:** Enhances boating safety (hazard markers and education) and property security (Cottage Watch).
- **Community Involvement Program:** Gives modest donations to a local high school graduation bursary, Round Lake Recreation, and the Bonnechere River Watershed Project (a volunteer stewardship organization); provides flyer distribution for the Barry's Bay hospital; is being further developed to strengthen our relationship with the municipality.
- **RLPOA Business Directory:** promotes local businesses; lists emergency contacts as well as other important and handy information.
- **Membership maintained in "umbrella" associations:** Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA represents our interests at the provincial level and is an invaluable resource); Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation; Interlake (an informal association of local lake associations).
- **Communications Program:** Includes newsletters and a web site to keep all property owners informed and educated; is being expanded to provide notifications of emergencies such as floods.
- **Administration:** Four or five board meetings and an Annual General Meeting each year; correspondence, copying and postage; computer equipment (2010).
- **Issues & Negotiations:** The RLPOA negotiates with various government authorities on **issues** that affect the well-being of the lake and its property owners, including water levels, park development, and waste management planning. President **Bill Goderre** has initiated discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Pembroke regarding **fish stocking**, and will continue his efforts.

Please see articles on boating safety and the RLPOA data base regarding particular financial challenges for 2010.

Communications

We hope you will make use of the **enclosed address stickers** to access the **important** information in the **web sites** listed.

RLPOA Newsletters via the Web Site Will Lower Costs and Save Trees.

It is the RLPOA position that it is to the benefit of the lake in general for all property owners within our membership area to be as educated as possible about stewardship of the waterway and the issues that affect it. In keeping with this philosophy, the RLPOA sends newsletters (winter, spring and summer) to all property owners on Round Lake and the Bonnechere River between the lake and the Tramore dam. This is a worthwhile but considerable expense to the association.

Now that so many people are comfortable with electronic communication, we are **offering** to property owners the option of **accessing the newsletters via the RLPOA web site**, rather than receiving "hard copies" by postal service. **If you would like to opt for this paperless reading, please indicate in the related area of the mail-in sheet.** (We will need your e-mail address to notify you when a new edition is posted.)

Newsletters are generally directed to only property owners within our membership area. The **newsletters** will therefore be posted in a **protected area of the RLPOA web site at www.rlpoa.info**, and can be accessed by our property owners by typing "**property owner**" (**not your own name**) into the user name area and "**Round Lake**" into the password area.

Flood Advisories and Warnings

The experiences of the flood conditions in spring, 2008 have indicated a need for the involved dam operators, townships and property owners' associations, and the Ministry of Natural Resources to coordinate notification to property owners. The Golden Lake POA has initiated a series of meetings for representatives to plan the timing, content, sharing, and dissemination of information.

Postings on web sites (See the sticker supplied with this newsletter.) and e-mailed advisories can be effective and timely notification tools. The RLPOA is also working with KHR's **Mayor Janice Visneskie** to devise as efficient and affordable a plan as possible for conventional mailing.

The foregoing is a good example of why **it is important for you to send your updated contact information to the RLPOA.**

RLPOA Data Base

We are grateful to **Mike Kendall**, who retired this past summer from the board position of Mail Master and

Memberships Chair, for the many related tasks he shouldered, We also express great appreciation to **Doug Fraser**, who helped Mike and the board by managing the RLPOA data base of property owners' addresses and contact information, and producing all the mailing stickers and lists that are necessary for the association to operate. The system accomplished what it needed to, however it required three people. Now **Dave Giroux**, an already exceptionally busy volunteer, has taken on all of these duties. Thank you, Dave!

A **significant expenditure** has been necessary for the RLPOA to purchase a **laptop and other equipment**. It enables Dave to centralize, and therefore accomplish the tasks involved more smoothly and efficiently. He and his teammate, wife **Lori**, have spent many hours transferring information into the new system. Assets in this mammoth job have been Treasurer **Geoff Dean**, and his technical "guru" **Kieran Cowan**.

As with any new system, a few glitches must be ironed out. These include its reluctance to print two names on an address sticker! **Rest assured that our newsletters are intended for all the Round Lake property owners in your family.**

Bill Justason

The RLPOA Board of Directors and his many other friends on the lake were saddened, last fall, with the unexpected loss of Bill Justason. Bill passed away on October 2, having been diagnosed with cancer in the early summer. A long time member of the Board, Bill's contributions to the lake and the RLPOA were many, not the least of which was getting the Boating Hazard Marker Program up and running. We will miss his wisdom and his friendly presence. On behalf of the association, the Board made a donation to the Barry's Bay Seniors' Centre, which had also benefitted from Bill's enthusiastic participation over many years. Our continued condolences to Mary and family.

** Boating Briefs **

Hazard Marking Program

Thank you to **Bill Goderre** for volunteering to coordinate this most visible and therefore highly appreciated RLPOA service to all boaters who use the lake.

Our markers need to be replaced, this year, at considerable expense. FOCA has been working with its lake associations' insurance provider to standardize the buoys used on lakes such as ours, and awaits the Ministry of Transport's approval of these markers.

Operator License

As of September 15, 2009, all operators of motorized pleasure craft must have on board with them proof of having passed the operator's proficiency test. The Transport Canada (Marine), web site provides a list of accredited course providers. The Golden Lake Property Owners' Association plans to run its early summer course again in July.

Issues & Negotiations

Water Levels

(by Don Pouliot, RLPOA Water Levels Chairman)

As previously reported, a number of proposals have been made over the past year to amend the current Water Management Plan (WMP) in order to establish an operating regime that will reduce the impact of flooding, thermal ice push, and high water wind/wave erosion to vulnerable shorelines on Round and Golden Lakes. Proposals are reviewed, recommended and submitted by the WMP's Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) for approval of the MNR regional director.

Our winter 2009 newsletter informed you that the Round and Golden Lake Property Owners' Associations and Renfrew Power Generation (RPG) had proposed a January 1, 2010 water level reduction of 2-3 feet. This would create an average 30-foot buffer for thermal ice push around the perimeter of the lake. The SAC agreed to this proposal.

However, its effect of the on trout spawn and hatch was of some concern to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Our spring newsletter informed you that MNR had proposed a 4-Year Trial recommendation that would draw down deeper in September and October to try to influence the trout to spawn lower down on the shoals. It also included an approximate 2 ft water level reduction at the commencement of winter drawdown, January 1.

Our summer newsletter reported that Renfrew Power Generation (RPG) had withdrawn its support of the previous RLPOA/GLPOA/RPG amendment proposals and the MNR 4-year Trial amendment proposal. It cited various objections, including a desire to do further impact studies.

This past October, RPG presented to the SAC a modified water levels operating regime as their preferred alternative. In essence, the typical operation line for fall water levels would rise to 170.7 meters above sea level by December 16th as opposed to the original WMP recommendation of 170.8 m by January 1. Under this new proposal, a 4 cm per week water level drawdown for power generation will commence two weeks earlier on December 16th, which would effectively lower the lake by about 5-6 inches from the original WMP recommendation by January 1. This should create an approximate 2 foot buffer zone around the perimeter of the lake which might help to contain some thermal ice push expansion and thereby lessen the shoreline damage when or if ice push events occur. The 5-6 inch water level drop by January 1 should also result in a corresponding lower water level just prior to the spring freshet, which in turn should result in some reduction of the peak spring flood levels by about the same amount. This would somewhat improve flood water containment over the current regime and to a certain extent reduce flood damage from high water wind/wave action.

Although RPG does recognize that the previous recommendations of a 2 ft water level drop would indeed

mitigate the damaging effects of thermal ice push, they claim that they want to observe the effects of lowering the water levels in incremental steps within the WMP over the next couple of years to ensure that any unforeseen negative impacts across the full Bonnechere River system can be addressed and corrected if necessary.

RPG's October proposal was accepted by the SAC as an administrative amendment and was approved in Jan. 2010.

In the opinion of the RLPOA, a much lower water level regime is required to provide an effective buffer for thermal ice push and contain the spring freshet to acceptable limits, to prevent property damage. However RPG's proposal, recently approved by the MNR regional director, is at the very least recognition by RPG that some corrections to water levels are required. Hopefully over time, the operating proposal will evolve to a management regime that contains spring freshets without excessive flooding, minimizes shoreline damage as a result of thermal ice push events and reduces erosion due to high water wind/wave action, while satisfying the requirements of all affected shareholders on the Bonnechere River and lake systems.

But it will take constant and continuous effort by all involved to make it happen, and will require close monitoring of the effectiveness of the operational changes RPG initiates year over year. **It is important that we continue to be aware of and document damage. To report problems and/or receive further information or explanations of water levels issues, please contact Don Pouliot (613-756-2631; djfp@sympatico.ca)**

The following link is RPG's weekly water level chart:
http://www.renfrewpg.ca/round_lake_water_levels.php

Waste Management Planning

In recognition of the fact that remaining space in its currently active landfill site is limited, the Township of **Killaloe Hagarty & Richards** is undertaking **development of "a long-term solid waste management solution** for the Township".

Via a supplement to our 2009 summer newsletter, and subsequently by e-mail to those for whom we have addresses, the RLPOA urged Round Lake property owners to attend the **August and October public meetings** held by KHR, and to fill in the **questionnaire** sent by the Township to all its ratepayers.

RLPOA board members, including RLPOA's ad hoc committee members Larry Wade, Debbie Hopper and Mike Kendall, attended the meetings. In October, **results of the questionnaire were presented**. They included: 47% of the respondents prefer existing waste site utilization; 40% prefer some form of incineration technology; 13% prefer exportation. 75% identified water resources as being the most sensitive impact concern. (A more detailed report is available on the Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards web site.) Mayor Janice Visneskie and Project Manager Tyler Peters of **Greenview**

Environmental Management Ltd., assured the audience that KHR will pursue the most fiscally and environmentally responsible solutions.

The RLPOA's position is that a waste management plan must give the utmost priority possible to protection of water quality in Round Lake and its tributaries. The RLPOA has requested a presence on the public liaison committee.



Stewardship Water Quality Baseline Study



RLPOA Lake Steward Larry Wade reports that a general baseline study of E. coli levels in the lake over the past seven years has yielded a snapshot of generally good water quality. The tributaries show higher counts, but this is not unexpected because of their more concentrated wildlife populations.

A somewhat more intense study of the Sherwood River was conducted over the summer: Eight locations were tested six times over a thirty-two day period. Although some results were higher relative to the lake itself, we cannot yet say whether or to what extent this might be a problem. Larry also sent a sample from an area on the Sherwood that has consistently shown higher levels of E. coli to a lab in London capable of determining whether the E. coli source is animal or human. Results indicated it was not human.

In light of the fact that the RLPOA has currently reached its volunteer and financial resource limits for this project, a report has been sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MOE), along with a request that MOE assume responsibility for any further investigation they feel might be needed. We await a reply.

Larry also investigated a ditch draining into the lake at Sheryl Boyle Park, and found high E. coli, phosphorus and colour intensity. Tests indicated that the source of the phosphorus could potentially originate in tributaries higher up, and he will look into this next summer.

A special RLPOA thank you to volunteers **Gerry and Linda Dombroskie** who collected a majority of the Sherwood samples, and to **Debbie and Bob Hopper** and **Nev Robinson**, who provided Larry with boat transportation.

The RLPOA continues its participation in MOE's Lake Partners Program, which monitors phosphorus levels and clarity.

Fund Raising

RLPOA fund raising activities are a necessity in helping the RLPOA cover its budgetary obligations, but are also geared to providing other than financial benefits. **Please use the mail-in sheet to participate.**

The **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations newsletter** is packed with pertinent information for waterfront property owners, and FOCA allows us to reproduce it and offer subscriptions. Topics in 2009 included: Lake Planning Tools; Fire Smart; New Environmental Lake Monitoring; Turtle Trauma; Protecting our Natural Heritage; Boaters and Invasive Species; Protect and Monitor Nesting Loons; Guide to Sportfish Contaminants; Cottagers and Private Wells.

We thank local businesses for supporting the annual **RLPOA Business Directory, delivered to all properties in our membership area.** It encourages waterfront owners to "shop local". The booklet is also full of important and handy info such as emergency, RLPOA and KHR contacts, waste site locations and hours, church services, and stewardship information. **RLPOA members** can take advantage of the **free "One-Liner"** section.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are giving the clothing orders a rest, for a while.

Miscellaneous Memos

This is a good time to remind **younger members of our waterfront families** that Killaloe Hagarty & Richards Township had to cancel its six-week swim program last summer due to a lack of **qualified swimming instructor applicants.** The program provides a great opportunity for summer employment at the lake, and it is also a respected addition to resumes for college/university or job applications. You can contact KHR for employment criteria.

Thank you to FOCA for donating 500 copies of "A Shoreline Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts", and to **Transport Canada** who supplied the same number of Safe Boating Guides, for our summer 2009 newsletter packages. Kudos to the **RLPOA shoreline directors**, whose delivery loads went up significantly with the inclusion of these booklets for all property owners.

Be Stewardship Smart!

*We are borrowing our lakes and rivers
from our children.*

With increased urbanization, it is crucial to guard against nutrient overload. Please refrain from using detergents and/or fertilizers that include phosphorus. And- septic systems function better with warm water, rather than cold.

Who Do You Call?

Questions? Constructive criticism? Further info needed? All are welcome at info.rlpoa.info or by phone:

Water Levels Chairman Don Pouliot (613-633-9035, djfp@sympatico.ca); President **Bill Goderre** (613-371-4644); Past President **Wendy Engel** (613-592-1758).

RLPOA, General Delivery, Round Lake Centre, Ontario K0J 2J0