



From The Board of Directors

Your RLPOA Board of Directors wishes you a happy, healthy 2011.

President Bill Goderre and the rest of the board work year-round to the best of our ability in representing the general interests of Round Lake and the Bonnechere River between the lake and the Tramore dam, and the property owners along their shores. We thank you for your past support, and remind you that **our efforts will be sustained by your continued membership, participation in fund raising activities, and help in filling volunteer positions.** New members will receive hand-delivered coloured maps of the lake, over the summer.

This newsletter features updates on various RLPOA programs. We are sure you will find that some, if not all, are worthy of your support.

Please use the mail-in sheet, and keep us updated on your contact info. (We send blind-copied short-notice info and emergency alerts out by email to those for whom we have addresses.)

Volunteers Needed

The mail-in sheet lists all the areas in which the RLPOA needs your help. All are important, however there is a **pressing need to fill the essential positions of secretary and newsletter editor/producer.**

Duties of the **secretary** include **recording and distributing meeting minutes and keeping correspondence**, therefore typing and emailing capabilities are necessary. Lots of editing help will be available while you are settling in and becoming familiar with the various topics discussed at board meetings. This is a board position that includes voting privileges.

Our present newsletter editor/producer will not be able to continue in this position beyond 2011 (and after 10 years of reading the same writing style, property owners will no doubt welcome a change!) We know there must be writers out there who would enjoy this interesting and educational activity and have some good ideas for content. If you have any questions about the current method of production and distribution, please contact Wendy Engel: (613) 592-1758 or wengel@rogers.com There is also a board position open for a communications chair, who generally oversees the newsletter and website.

Newsletter Winter 2011

Communications

Newsletters

As it is beneficial to the lake in general for as many as possible to be educated on best stewardship practices and issues that affect the lake, newsletters are distributed to all property owners on Round Lake and the Bonnechere River between the lake and the Tramore dam. Currently there are three editions per year, winter, spring and summer, all of which are posted on the web site. The shoreline directors distribute hard copies of the summer letter by hand to all properties. The winter and spring editions are mailed out to those who have not indicated a preference for just accessing them via the RLPOA website.

Website

Webmasters Doug Fee (content) and Dylan Waugh (technical) manage the RLPOA site at www.rlpoa.info As the newsletters are directed to property owners within our membership area, they must be accessed by logging in. The user name is **property owner** (two words, no capitals) and the password is **Round Lake** (two words, capitalized).

High Water Emergency Communications

A committee comprised of representatives from the Round and Golden Lakes associations, the related municipalities, Renfrew Power Generation (RPG), and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) meet several times per year to remain aware of potential flooding conditions and to coordinate the communication of alerts. The RPG website (<http://www.renfrewpg.ca>) issues notifications which will also be included on the municipal (www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca) and RLPOA sites.

At the most recent committee meeting, RPG reported that at this time they are ahead of schedule in lowering the winter levels, and will be down to the minimum allowed by the Water Management Plan in time to capture the spring freshet. With little frost in the ground and a prediction of low precipitation over the remaining winter, RPG does not anticipate flood conditions. These statements were, as usual, accompanied by the proviso that adverse weather can change things quickly. Meanwhile, RPG recommends that now is the time for those who have experienced destabilization of their shorelines due to the December thermal ice push event to install sand bag protection against the freshet levels. Supplies can be obtained from KHR. Call Sue Sheridan at the Township office: (613) 757-2300.

(Please see the RLPOA Water Levels Report, Page 2.)

Issues & Negotiations

Water Levels

(By RLPOA Water Levels Chairman Don Pouliot)

A thermal ice push occurred over the evening of Dec 29 and the morning of Dec 30, 2010. The major effect of the push was on Eno Bay on the west side of the lake with somewhat less impact on St Pat's Bay on the north and Sand Bay to the east. **In Eno Bay, properties around the mouth of the Sherwood in particular suffered damage** and also those properties with installed rock based barriers, as recommended by the MNR for erosion protection, had their walls undermined and lifted by the movement of the ice. In places the ice travel was over eight feet inwards. One property owner whose shoreline was damaged advised that over the past few years repairs to his frontage wall, which is comprised of 1 ton limestone blocks, has cost over 40 thousand dollars.



Briefly, thermal ice push is caused by unequal stresses on the bottom or top of the ice cap as a result of a rapid change in temperature either from warm to cold or from cold to warm. The difference in stress between the top and bottom of the cap causes the ice cap to bend. This pressure is only released by large cracks forming on the ice, accompanied by loud bangs and vibrations that sometimes can be felt on shore. These cracks become filled with water and refreeze, causing more stress in the upper layers of the ice. On a subsequent rapid warming trend, additional pressure is formed on the top layer. This additional pressure and bending of the ice cap results in either ice moving onto the shores if the shoreline ice cap is not anchored, or forming ridges on the ice cap itself in areas where the ice is weakest.

At the time of the ice push, water levels, managed by Renfrew Power Generation, were within the upper limits of the Water Management Plan (WMP) but were well above the typical operating line of approx. 170.7 meters above sea level coming in at 170.9 meters above sea level. (Approximately 10 inches higher than typical or normal) The reason cited by RPG for the high water levels was "excessive rainfall over the fall period causing higher than usual water levels. Golden Lake could not be drained as a result of the natural 'restriction' above the Golden Lake dam and as a result Round Lake could not be drained as the excessive water would lift the ice cap making Golden Lake susceptible to ice push".

This sounds well and good, however water levels were held high from July onwards (see Chart, Page 4) and could easily have been reduced on both lakes well in advance of the ice cap forming which is generally around December 16th on Round Lake. Additionally, on a review of Environment Canada records for the Round Lake area, the year 2010 had lower than normal precipitation compared to the average over the past 30 years. The month of September was the only month in the year that had above average rainfall, yet overall, even the period from July to December had lower than average precipitation. The apparent conclusion as to the cause of the high water levels is that RPG for whatever reason neglected to

remove logs in the dams and obviously did not attempt to manage water levels appropriately as per the recommended typical operating line. Requests to provide the full log pull records for 2010 have been repeatedly denied by RPG.

When a thermal ice push occurs at high water levels the ice is pushed much further inland, significantly damaging shoreline property and also in the process loosening sand which is then washed back into the lake during the spring floods by high wind and resultant wave action. This in turn contributes to shallowing of the bays while creating in some cases steep shoreline banks. As a result of the high water regimes and ice push events that are now occurring every year causing significant shoreline erosion, our beautiful Round Lake sand beaches are slowly disappearing or are being replaced by rock rubble as cottagers, following MNR recommendations for shoreline protection, desperately try to safeguard their waterfront.

It is the opinion of the RLPOA that the only means of protection of shoreline properties is to lower water levels in the late fall by approximately 2 feet. This would create an average 20-foot wide buffer zone or beach extension around the perimeter of the lake, which would serve to contain ice push movement without attendant damage to existing shorelines. This is a very simple concept and should be easily implementable with nil or minimal impact on RPG's hydroelectric revenues. However despite our best efforts, all good faith negotiations recommending this proposal with both the MNR and RPG since 2005 have been unsuccessful to date.

The RLPOA will continue initiating negotiations in 2011, as realistically there is no other viable alternative other than to lower winter water levels to preserve our shorelines. To be successful, however, we do need your support. We would appreciate new ideas and strategies and accordingly we are asking all property owners for your thoughts and suggestions as how to best continue our endeavours. Round Lake is our lake and if we want to save and maintain the remainder of our beaches, we need your participation. Somehow the MNR has to be convinced to act decisively to actively exercise their mandate to protect our Round Lake resource, and any and all ideas would be appreciated. If you have any proposals or recommendations, it would be most appreciated if you would contact anyone on the following list and provide your input. And finally, we would particularly like to hear from any property owners who may feel that lower **winter** water levels would be detrimental in any way to their properties.

Thank you, and I wish you all a very happy, prosperous and enjoyable 2011.

Suggestions Contact List: Don Pouliot (613) 633-9035; Bill Goderre (613) 371-4644; Wendy Engel (613) 592-1758. The weekly water level chart produced by RPG is at: http://www.renfrewpg.ca/round_lake_water_levels.php

If you have questions or need more info, please contact Don at number above.



KHR Waste Management Planning

As reported in previous newsletters, Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards is in the process of developing a long-term waste management plan. Viable options that are being researched as to environmental and financial costs include expanding the Killaloe landfill site and/or reactivating the Round Lake site, and trucking waste to large waste management centres outside the Township. The RLPOA is concerned that any plan adopted be sensitive to potential detrimental environmental effects on the Sherwood River and Round Lake. RLPOA's Lake Steward Larry Wade and Community Involvement Chair Patricia Holst are members of the Public Liaison Committee for the plan, and will keep us posted as KHR endeavours to find a solution to the problem of its current limited waste site space.

Water Quality Monitoring

The RLPOA participates in monitoring phosphorus levels through the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Lake Partnership program and our own baseline testing. At our request for further investigation of the relatively higher E. coli levels found in the Sherwood River, an MOE technician traveled to our area and canoed up this tributary to try to assess the conditions that might be contributing. A report should be available for our spring newsletter.

Invasive Species: Banded Mystery Snail has arrived!

This past summer, we were contacted by a south shore property owner who reported that hundreds of snail shells had been washing up in on windy days over the last few years. The smell was offensive, and the shells a nuisance.



The RLPOA gathered some samples and took them in to the Pembroke MNR office where Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician Darwin Rosien identified them. The Banded Mystery Snail is native to certain areas in the U.S., and is now present in the Great Lakes and Quebec. It is relatively new to Ontario, and in our region has been so far identified in a few lakes including one in the Calabogie area-and now Round Lake. This snail can affect fish populations by preying on embryos, as well as on the eggs of largemouth bass. Please let us know if the snails appear in other areas of the lake.

Invasive species such as this typically arrive in a lake via boats, birds. The RLPOA Directory, delivered to each household over the summer, has instructions for "decontaminating" boats that are being moved from one water body into another.

Each year, the RLPOA gives a modest donation to Round Lake Recreation and the Bonnechere River Watershed Project, as well as a bursary to a resident of our municipality who is graduating from high school and pursuing post secondary education. Our 2010 recipient, Tiffany Cybulskie, has entered a four-year health science program.

RLPOA Community Involvement Chair Patricia Holst is a liaison between our municipal council and lake association. It is important to stay aware of each other's concerns and challenges.

Safety

Boating Hazard Markers

Our new bright yellow markers have arrived from Go Deep International Boating Safety Chair Bill Goderre and his marker team will be busy getting these in at the beginning of summer, but the buoys are smaller and lighter than the "regatta" style we have been using, and will be easier to handle. Most importantly, they conform to the standards agreed to (for lakes such as ours) by MTO and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association.



Cottage Watch

At the 2010 RLPOA Annual General Meeting, Constable Liz Van Massenhoven gave tips to members and answered questions on crime prevention. The highest rate of break-and-enters occurs in areas of seasonal residences, and between April and October. Property owners should keep a record of their possessions' serial numbers, including boat motors. It is not advisable to leave items in boats.

If there has been a break-in, the property owner should not touch things, and should call police immediately, even if nothing appears to be missing, as police use statistics to plan patrols and prevention. Property owners should report to police anyone "scoping" the area - on foot or in a vehicle. A description of the person (height, hair colour, clothing) and vehicle (make, license plate, etc.) is valuable information.

Property owners can request extra patrols in their area, including private roads. Police can also patrol on A TV, and we will be recommending that this service be increased.

The RLPOA delivers engravers to property owners who wish to mark their car license plate number on items that might be attractive to thieves. This enables the OPP to identify stolen property and its rightful owner. To register for the program or update your engraving, please indicate in the check off bracket of the mail-in sheet.

Fund-raising

Our fund-raising program is designed not only to assist your association in meeting budgetary challenges, but also to provide other benefits. Please see the mail-in sheet to take advantage of the opportunities below.

FOCA Newsletter Subscriptions

The RLPOA is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, which provides a voice at the provincial level and considerable information, guidance and education resources for waterfront associations. FOCA provides one or two newsletters per year (available on their web site at www.foca.on.ca) and allows us to offer hard copy subscriptions to our property owners. Topics in 2010 included: power line safety; info on the pleasure craft operator card; property tax updates; private buoy program; Mining Act revisions and implementation; land use planning; Fire Smart program; municipal elections; sewage systems and new regulations; biodiversity; hydro report; info on loons and turtles; invasive species.

RLPOA Business Directory

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. Property owners are also encouraged to advertise their businesses in this popular booklet, and **RLPOA members** can take advantage of the free "One-Liner" section to buy/sell that canoe or dock, etc.

All Property Owners:

Please Send Us Your Contact Information!

In order for us to keep all property owners updated and informed, it is crucial that we have accurate contact records. Please be sure to fill in the requested information on the mail-in sheet, **whether or not you have sent it in previous years**. Please also indicate in the box if your email address has changed since last winter. This will be of significant help to our data managers.

The RLPOA does not share your contact information with any outside organization. Within our own, it is only used on a need-to-know basis. **E-mail addresses are essential for sending out short-notice information and emergency alerts** such as flooding, fire, etc. As previously stated, we are careful to blind copy e-mails. **Please print your address accurately and clearly.**

If you have sold your property recently, we would appreciate your forwarding this newsletter to the new owners.



Water Levels (Please see article on Page 2).

