



Newsletter Spring 2012

President's Message (Rob Norris)

I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with the RLPOA Board and volunteers to help maintain the ongoing programs that have been developed over the past fifty years. These programs enhance the protection and enjoyment of our lake.

I also look forward to working with all levels of government in encouraging and assisting in new initiatives such as MNR's plan to stock trout.

It will be nice meeting as many of you as possible over the next few years, and hearing your ideas and opinions.

Looking forward to another summer at beautiful Round Lake!

Temporary (?) Change to RLPOA Mailing Address

Until a new location is found for a Canada Post office at Round Lake Centre, general delivery service has been suspended. This is reflected in a change to our return address for the time being: **c/o 2725 Round Lake Road, Round Lake Centre ON K0J 2J0.**

Killaloe Public School Needs Your E-mailed Vote of Support!

KPS is one of ten schools across Canada **competing for a funding grant of \$20,000 to develop an outdoor environmental education classroom** that can also be shared with other local schools. The competition was created by MAJESTA in partnership with Tree Canada and Focus on Forests, and will help children connect with the environment and discover the steward within. Other finalist schools are located within much larger population bases, so **every vote for KPS will be vital. Any adult can cast one vote once a day, every day up to May 11th** by first registering at www.majesta.com. Please tell your adult friends and family to make this a daily vote for Killaloe Public School. (Majesta has added a voter incentive by offering a **chance to win a random draw of \$10,000 each time you vote!**)



Please Support Your Association

Your membership and volunteer support are appreciated, and crucial to RLPOA programs and efforts. Please use the mail-in page and envelope provided. Thank you.

Opinion Surveys

**All Waterfront Property Owners:
Whether You Choose to Submit Your Membership Fee or not, PLEASE RESPOND!**

Thank you to all who have sent in their survey forms, and comments. We would like the results to represent as many waterfront property owners as possible, so **we are repeating these messages and again sending forms** to those from whom we have not received a response (as of our Spring newsletter preparation). **Only one form/vote per property will be accepted**, and the **deadline is June 8**. Please use the enclosed mail-back envelope.

Noise By-law

(Survey of all waterfront property owners)

Although we all take pleasure in summer relaxation and fun, it has become apparent that loud partying (and fireworks) until the wee small hours may be an increasing problem for property owners around the lake: babies startled awake late at night; property owners unable to sleep; panicked pets; loss of enjoyment of property. **Having been approached** by property owners who have been unsuccessful in negotiating solutions with their offending neighbours, the RLPOA is attempting to learn **what level of support** there may be for exploring the possibility of KHR's instituting a **reasonable** noise bylaw.

Boating Speed Restrictions on the Sherwood and Bonnechere Rivers

(Survey of property owners on these tributaries)

Contrary to common belief, the Ministry of Transport's restriction of boating speed to 10 km/h within 30 m (98' 5") from shore does **not** apply to rivers that are less than 100 m (328' 1") wide. Unless there are Ministry speed restriction signs, boaters are allowed to travel as fast as safely possible.

The RLPOA has received requests that we look into speed limits on the Sherwood and Bonnechere, and we have learned from a Ministry regulations officer that there are several approaches that could be taken by the Township.



The first step, of course, is for the RLPOA to find out **what degree of support** there may be for boating speed restrictions. We enclose mail-back forms for property owners on the sections of those rivers within our membership area.

KHR Waste Management

Our winter newsletter announced the decisions made by Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards to **encourage increased recycling, export organic waste, and increase the per bag fee. KHR advises that closing the Red Rock waste site to public use** is a financial necessity, but the Round Lake site hours will be expanded to the same as those provided at Red Rock. A more recent council decision has been to impose **use of clear garbage bags**, a proven incentive for recycling. (One small opaque bag may be enclosed for disposal of personal hygienic products.) **The target date for these changes is late September.**



We thank RLPOA board members Patricia Holst and Larry Wade for their work as public liaisons for KHR's long-term waste management planning, and Council for making environmental concerns an important priority. Larry (RLPOA lake steward) has recently been appointed to the KHR Waste Management Committee.

In December of 2011, **KHR expanded its program to accept used, obsolete or unwanted electronic equipment.** Amplifiers, audio and video players, cameras, cell phones, computers and peripherals, copiers, fax machines, monitors, pagers and PDA's, printers, radios, receivers, scanners, speakers, telephones and answering machines, tuners, turntables, telephones, and video projectors will be accepted at the Killaloe Waste Site (1049 Mask Road) where a bin will be provided Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Friday noon-4:00 p.m., and Sat. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

KHR Summer Swim Program

It's anticipated that the six-week program will begin July 2nd at Bonnechere Park beach. Registration information will be posted at <http://www.killalo-hagarty-richards.ca>. If you miss the date, you can register your children at the beach for the full program, or for the weeks you'll be at the lake. Participants will receive a day parking pass at the park gate.

Stay Informed on Local News

There's no need to remind you of the high property taxes we all contribute to the township, except to emphasize the importance of staying as informed as possible on decisions made by our elected officials. Both local papers include reports of council meetings, and many interesting articles on activities and issues in KHR and neighbouring townships. We would recommend subscribing to at least one of them. Contacts (in alphabetical order): **Barry's Bay This Week**, 613-756-2944, circ@barrysbaythisweek.com; **Eganville Leader**, 1-888-846-6397, leaderwantads@nrtco.net. You may also request electronic copies of the KHR council meeting minutes by contacting 613-757-2300 or lhudder@khrtownship.ca.



Water Ski Found

If you're missing a Connelly Quantum ski, please call 613-757-0840.

Annual General Meeting - July 28th

Please mark your calendars: The RLPOA Members' AGM will be held at Saint Casimir's Church Hall, Round Lake Centre, registration 9:00 a.m., meeting to start at 9:30.

Three-year terms for the following positions are concluding and therefore open to election (*Read - volunteers!*): memberships/mailmaster; safety chair; shoreline directors for areas B (Jack's Creek to Foy Park), C (Foy Park to Pine Point), F (818 John St. to Byers Creek), G (Byers Creek to Lake St.), J (812 Lakeview Dr. to 5 Sunrise Rd.); M (Bonnechere River to Dombroskie's Point); R (Bonnechere River to Tramore dam); X (Islands). **Nominations must be received** (*Read - let us know*) **by July 9.** You may contact any board member or reach us by e-mail: info.rlpoa.info. Remember that a shoreline director must own property within the area he or she represents, and that a property owner's designate (See definition on mail-in sheet.) can hold a board position. **Other positions** that are presently vacant and can therefore be filled at any time during their current terms are listed on the mail-in sheet.



Please consider helping. The board is a friendly group, the subjects and issues discussed are interesting, and you will be participating in the betterment of the lake. For further info, you may also e-mail or call: wengel@rogers.com; (613) 592-1758.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)

Please take some time to visit our umbrella association's website at <http://www.foca.on.ca>. You will find a wealth of fascinating topics and helpful articles, information on the many issues facing today's waterfront owners, and outlines of the FOCA programs geared to assisting all of us. Although a portion of your RLPOA membership fee is allocated to FOCA, the federation welcomes individual memberships to help support its programs.

Keeping the "Family" in the Family Cottage

For the past two summers, FOCA has brought cottage succession seminars to various locations in Ontario. The seminars are extremely well organized, and Peter Lillico, a specialist in this area of planning, is a forthright and dynamic speaker who covers all of the relevant topics. These include how to best minimize the inevitable friction and stress among our sons and daughters regarding upkeep, usage, and paying the bills.

The RLPOA applied to have a seminar in our area, last year, but the date/location schedule did not cooperate. We have asked to host it this year, as has the Kaszuby Cottagers' Association in the Barry's Bay area. It is hoped that if one of us is successful, we can co-host the seminar along with our other informal Interlake Association members (Golden, Kamaniskeg, Clear, Dore, Paugh, Aylen). We will let you know as soon as we do, via e-mail and posting on the RLPOA website.

“Cottage Dreams” for Cancer Survivors

FOCA endorses this program, which helps families touched by cancer reconnect at private, “donated” cottages. If you would be interested in lending yours for a few days (or longer): www.cottagedreams.ca; (705) 457-9100.

Geese and Other Waterfowl Produce a Pile of ... E. Coli !



We all enjoy watching waterfowl in their natural habitat, and counting their babies as they paddle industriously by. However, **waterfront owners who make a habit of feeding them can create health hazards and other problems for themselves and for neighbours.** Excrement in swimming areas—both on the beach and in the water—can elevate *E. coli* levels significantly. Not only do geese leave messy, slimy, and offensively large amounts of feces wherever they congregate, they are also big and territorial, and can be quite intimidating. We have reports that they have hissed and snapped at property owners on driveways, lawns (Geese love lawns!) and beaches. Please refrain from visiting these kinds of health hazards, inconvenience and alarm upon your neighbours. Allow the geese and ducks to find their food in a natural manner.

Communications

Have you sent us your e-mail address?

There are occasions when our newsletter schedule is not timely, and we need to send you short-notice or emergency notifications. Please use your mail-in sheet to make sure we have your contact info. It will be used for RLPOA business only, and will not be shared with any outside organization. We are careful to “blind copy”.

RLPOA Website (www.rlpoa.info)

We repeat: As the newsletters are directed to property owners within our membership area, they are posted in a protected section. Thank you to Terri W. for her effective description of how to access it: Your user name is **property owner** (case sensitive). Note: We really mean “property owner”! Don’t try to use your name here—it doesn’t work. Your password is: **Round Lake** (case sensitive). Many thanks to our webmasters Doug Fee (information) and Dylan Waugh (technical support) for managing the RLPOA site.

Water Levels Report

(By Don Pouliot, RLPOA Water Levels Chair)

General

This winter and spring were generally mild. Total precipitation over the winter period from Dec 1 2011 to April 1 2012 was 224.5 mm (approx. 9 inches) compared to the 30 year average of 240 mm (9.5 inches). According to data from Renfrew Power Generation records, total freeze-up of

Round Lake for this winter season was the first week in January 2012, one week after Golden Lake freeze-up. Round Lake is typically the last lake to totally freeze over in the Bonnechere River system.



Water Levels



Round Lake water level at freeze-up was at 170.51 meters above sea level (asl). This was approximately .4 meters (15.7 inches) lower than last year and approximately .3 meters (11.8 inches) lower than the typical operating line of the Water Management Plan, and was a welcome departure from the high water levels of previous years. High water levels at freeze-up allow ice movement or travel to damage upper beach areas whenever an ice push event occurs. If water levels are held lower, ice travel is limited to lower beach areas causing much less shoreline damage. (See following section on Ice Push.)

RPG drawdown of water levels for hydroelectric production from Jan 2 to March 13 averaged 3-4 cm per week until March 13th and then leveled out and held at approximately 170.15 m asl, just above the lower limit of the WMP, until the start of the spring freshet.

Spring Freshet

Spring freshet was early—a week 11 start but not unusual. (Earlier freshets occurred on wk 9 in the years 1954 & 1989 and wk 10 in 1995 and 1997.) Freshet levels on Round Lake peaked at about 170.85 m asl. This was well below the upper “Hat” limit of the WMP (171.1 m asl) and the Licence of Occupation. (171.2 m asl) (See enclosed charts.)

As a result of the lower water levels there were no reports of damage from high wind/wave action on shorelines. A very welcome respite from previous years. For comparison purposes, the major Round Lake Spring Freshet of 2008 reached a maximum level of 171.69 m asl (.84 m or 33 inches higher water levels than in 2012).

Golden Lake exceeded its 169.4 m asl License of Occupation (LOC) this year, reaching approximately 169.5 m asl. This is not an uncommon event; Golden Lake has exceeded its LOC on 73 occasions from 1943 to 2010, while Round Lake has had its LOC breached a total of 18 times during the same period.

2012 Thermal Ice Push Events



Three relatively small (compared to previous years) ice push events occurred over the past winter. The first was Dec 28-29th, when ice movement was approximately 8-10 inches. It was noticeable on St. Patrick’s Bay only, and there was no reported damage.

An ice ridge of about 2-3 feet high running through the middle of the lake from approximately a mile out from the Bonnechere Park to east of the islands was first reported the following week. No other definitive data has been received on when the ice ridge was formed or its full extent.

The second ice push was reported on Feb. 21st and the third occurred over Feb. 23rd to Feb. 24th. The primary location was on the south side of the lake ranging from Round Lake Center over to Bonnechere Park. The degree of visible ice movement ranged from approximately 10-15 feet at the end of Yantha street to just a couple of feet along Eno Bay. Significant damage was reported from one shoreline property owner. A cement barrier and cement walkway/steps were lifted and buckled, and a large pine tree along the frontage was lifted, its roots exposed, and had to be removed.

The approximate 10-15 foot extended beach perimeter formed by the lower water levels at freeze-up appeared to contain most of the ice push movement without damaging upper sand beach shoreline areas along the west and north sides of the lake, areas that traditionally have been impacted the most from ice push events. Although ice push can be generated in any direction, it is somewhat rare for the south side of the lake to experience the consequences of major or significant ice push events. Arguably, the 10-15 foot extended beach area formed in front of the lake's sandy beaches and particularly along Eno Bay by this year's much lower water levels served to contain the ice push travel without damaging upper shorelines.



Although water levels were significantly lower at freeze-up over the 2010/2011 winter period, ice push primarily moved up and over the south shoreline areas that jutted out into the lake. If water levels were reduced an additional 1 foot to 170.2 m asl, (a total of 2 ft from the WMP recommended level of 170.8 m asl), almost all shoreline areas could be protected from all but the worst incidents of ice push movement.

RLPOA will continue to strongly pursue this objective with both the MNR and RPG. There appears to be no other alternative that can protect our remaining beaches from the damaging effects of ice push at high winter water levels.

Ideally, a return to a more natural water flow regime over the current water management regime that is primarily designed for hydroelectric production would not only protect shorelines from ice push but would also serve to re-introduce conditions conducive to the preservation of riparian zones towards the normal habitat in which wildlife has evolved and survived over thousands of years.

Our ice push report with photos and comments will be sent to MNR and RPG for record purpose.

Water Management Plan Review

At the Water Management Plan (WMP) Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting held on Feb. 16th, discussions centered around the WMP renewal which is due to expire in 2014. Renewal reviews are to commence this fall. MNR advised that the intention is to only introduce minor tweaks and balances. Given the issues which were well documented by 3 of the 9 original Public Advisory Committee members with the current WMP, the RLPOA is extremely concerned that the extensive ice push damages experienced over the past several years will not be adequately addressed. Consequently, the renewed WMP will continue to allow RPG to operate at high winter water levels for another several years, which in the opinion of the RLPOA is the root cause of ice push damages to sandy shorelines.

Her Honour Mayor Janice Visneskie, Killaloe, Hagarty, and Richards, raised this concern at her meeting with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Michael Gravelle in February. At the time of this newsletter setup, the MNR has yet to respond.

RPG Flow Restriction Study

RPG reported on the Golden Lake restriction study that is currently in process. The restriction is suspected of inhibiting water outflow from Golden Lake causing freshet high water flows to back up into Golden Lake proper and subsequently affect the outflow from Round Lake. Measurements of water levels and flows are being taken at 72 points from Beatty Island to the Golden Lake dam. This data will be analyzed by WEAS Consulting to determine the size, extent, and location of the restriction and should be completed by early fall. This data may have an impact on the renewed WMP scheduled for implementation in 2014.

RLPOA 50th Anniversary Year Thoughts

Thank You

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who established the RLPOA—a voice for the lake—in 1962, when dialogues were opened with the Township, MNR, and dam operators. Since then, we have expanded existing programs and established new ones. Various issues have come and gone, having been resolved or changed. Some remain—a good example being difficulties with water levels. Building on the knowledge and efforts of those who came before, the considerable skills and depth of expertise of our current water levels chairman Don Pouliot have been remarkable assets for the RLPOA in efforts to negotiate solutions before Round Lake's beautiful beaches disappear. We are grateful for his leadership, as we head into the upcoming Water Management Plan Review.

.... and Let's Take Care of the Future

So many other aspects of life at Round Lake have evolved from gatherings of summer cottages in various areas around the lake, with canoes and rowboats being the primary recreational transportation on its pristine waters, to a highly developed shoreline of close to 470 residences, of which approximately 30% are in permanent, year-round use. A bird's-eye view of the lake is also very different. The trees and natural vegetation, essential filters for run-off from the land to the lake, have gradually been cleared away and replaced with lawns, gravel and paving. As development takes place in a wider perimeter around the lake, even more defences of the water's quality are stripped away. Today's stewardship programs reflect modern awareness of how important it is to mind what we do at the waterfront, individually and collectively.

We are all so fortunate to be at Round Lake, some families for a number of generations. Let us all be aware that we need to look after it, and reduce our "footprint". Eliminating use of products that contain phosphorus, maintaining effective septic systems and preserving or re-creating a wide, naturally vegetated "ribbon of life" around the lake are three imperatives.

We are borrowing the lake from future generations.