



Newsletter Summer 2011

Still Needed!

We repeat the urgent messages from our last newsletter.

A President

We are again appealing to volunteers within our membership to step forward. We must fill this position in order for the association to continue. The **duties of president are not onerous**, and include providing general support and direction for the association. A **highly supportive apprenticeship** will be in place until you have gained a general knowledge of the RLPOA's various issues, activities and administrative set-up, and are comfortable to chair meetings (4-5 for the board during May to late September, and one members' AGM in late July). The RLPOA systems are well established and work smoothly, and the board is a friendly and positive group.

This position might ideally suit - but is certainly **not** limited to - a member who is semi-retired and lives within a two-hour drive of the lake. If you are at all interested in taking a turn in filling this crucial need but have questions, please **contact Wendy (613-592-1758, wengel@rogers.com)**. She promises to fill you in - not rope you in.

A Secretary

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 position includes voting privileges. Please use your mail-in sheet, or contact Wendy if you have any questions.

Please Support Your Association

The RLPOA very much appreciates your mailed memberships, as not all shoreline directors are able to visit all property owners in their section. But they are available to explain the many efforts that the RLPOA makes on your behalf and the numerous programs that are of benefit to the lake in general. They are also there to bring your concerns and ideas to the board. Directors are listed in the Business Directory, included in this newsletter package.

Your membership supports many programs for the benefit of Round Lake and its property owners, including: **Safety** (boating and Cottage Watch); **Stewardship** (education and

water quality monitoring); **Community Involvement; Communications** (newsletters and email alerts); the Annual Directory; membership in the **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations** which represents the interests of waterfront property owners at the provincial level; **Issues & Negotiations** (water levels, waste management planning and other issues as they arise).

Although you may not agree with some of our efforts, your membership will support those with which you do, and will be an acknowledgement of your appreciation of the RLPOA volunteers who work on behalf of the lake.

**RLPOA Annual General Meeting
Saturday , July 23
St. Casimir's Church Hall, Round Lake Centre
Registration 9:00 a.m., Call to Order 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting is open to RLPOA members only, but if you have yet to renew your membership, you may do so at the door. We hope as many of you as possible will join us for updates on Township affairs by **Mayor Janice Visneskie**. You will also hear annual reports on your association's activities, and be asked to approve nominees for positions beginning a new term.

These are: **Secretary; Community Involvement Chair; Shoreline Directors** for Areas E (Bonnehochere River to 818 John St.); H (Lake St. to Oak St.); I (Oak St. to 812 Lakeview Drive); K (Sunrise Rd. to Sherwood River); L (Sherwood River to Bonnehochere River). Nominations should be received by July 5. (**Read: Volunteers, please step forward!**) **Other positions** currently vacant are **listed** in the volunteer portion of the **mail-in page** of this newsletter. RLPOA contact info is listed at the bottom of the page, and in the 2011 Business Directory.

At their meeting of May 7, 2011, your board approved the following amendment to the RLPOA By-law to be presented for members' ratification at the AGM: "**Proposals regarding presentations at members' general meetings must be submitted to and approved as to subject and speaker by the board of directors at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The board may waive the thirty-day notice at its discretion.**" The amendment will allow the board to ensure, to the best of our ability, that the topic is relevant to our association and that the presenter has reasonable expertise to speak to it.

Please attend. We look forward to meeting with you.

Water Levels

(By RLPOA Water Levels Chairman Don Pouliot)

Review

In March, **KHR Mayor Janice Visneskie** presented on behalf of her Round Lake constituents a request to the Minister of Natural Resources for an immediate Ministerial directive to have RPG lower winter water levels by 2 feet at freeze-up. This would create a



20-25 foot extended beach or shoreline zone that should allow ice push movement to be exhausted prior to reaching and destroying upper shoreline areas. The minister was also requested to have this lower winter water level held and to be in effect until a review and revision of the Water Management Plan (WMP) was completed. This review is scheduled for 2012 but given past history, it could take an additional year or two to be completed. Allowing high winter levels to continue cannot be allowed, as the potential for continued ice push damage is too great, and any further shoreline damage at this stage is unacceptable.

A response was received from the Minister May 27th. Unfortunately, it **did not offer any immediate positive action** to lower water levels for the forthcoming winter season. This was not unexpected given MNR's record of failing to respond effectively to local property owners' concerns in regard to the effects of high winter water levels on Round Lake fisheries and shorelines. Another year of high winter water levels with the potential of further thermal ice push damages to shorelines and flooding is dismaying, at the very least, as any further destruction to susceptible shorelines and remaining beach areas could very well be beyond repair. An RLPOA response has been drafted and will be presented to KH&R mayor Janice Visneskie for furtherance to the Minister.



In summary, our request is that the MNR, as the sole responsible authority, must immediately invoke a directive on Renfrew Power Generation (RPG) to implement a lower winter operating regime on Round Lake and to hold a moratorium at the requested water levels until such time as the Water Management Plan is reviewed and revised. Failure to act will allow RPG to claim that there is not enough time to set up the appropriate water level regime and again another year

of high water levels can be expected with potential damage from ice push events should they occur. It is the opinion of the RLPOA that such action will not impact RPG business operations and that a lower winter water level operating regime will hold back or minimize any further damages to shoreline properties until a reassessment of the WMP can be completed.

Spring Freshet

As mentioned in the April newsletter, RPG had initiated an aggressive drawdown of Round Lake water levels over the late winter and early spring and reached approximately 2-3 inches above the lowest level allowed by the WMP in preparation for the spring freshet. However **the extent and volume of the freshet was unexpected** and both the upper limits of the WMP and License of Occupation (LOC) were exceeded. The freshet period from minimal low to peak high was only over a 5-day period and resulted in over 1.12 meters or 3.7 ft total rise in water levels. On the second day it rose a phenomenal .58 meters or 1.9 ft. and on the 3rd day rose another 1.1 feet.

A preliminary RLPO analysis of the freshet appears to indicate that significantly higher than normal precipitation in March (79% higher) and April (64 % higher) coincident with the annual spring thaw was the major contributor to the 2011 flood. Overall, the 2010/2011-winter period experienced a 26% higher than normal (based on a 30 year avg.) precipitation level. The official report from RPG and the MNR should be completed in July/August time frame and the final results will be passed on in a future newsletter.

The bad news is that extensive high winds at peak flood levels resulted in **numerous reports of major erosion and damages to shorelines**. Combined with the ice push events experienced this year, Round Lake beaches were again subjected to unnecessary stress that could be virtually eliminated or significantly reduced at the very least if managed properly within a Water Management Plan that recognizes the sensitivity of sand based shorelines.

Updates

RPG's refusal to provide log pull records for the year 2010 has been circumvented by an RLPOA initiated Freedom of Information request. This information will be helpful in allowing an analysis of water levels for 2010 as well as to allow comparisons to previous years of RPG operations. Thanks to Ron Fabian for all his hard work and efforts to work on and obtain this data.

Please Report Damages!

Documentation is extremely important. We need to continue keeping records. Please contact Don Pouliot: 613-756-2631; 613-757-2258; (Cell) 613-633-9035

Post Script from the RLPOA Board of Directors

Don's reports are always a focal point for our meetings. We wish to express grateful appreciation to him for his unprecedented, tenacious and ongoing efforts in advancing Round Lake's water levels concerns through the bureaucratic and political challenges.



Boating Hazard Marking

Many thanks from the RLPOA-and all boaters who use Round Lake - to **Neil Mantifel**, who has stepped in as coordinator of this program. A year-round resident, former RLPOA Water Levels Chairman and avid boater, Neil knows the lake well. Under his leadership, the **new yellow buoys** are now bobbing brightly to keep the lake safer for recreation. Kudos as well to our dependable team of marker managers: Kevin Raglin, Terry Brum, John Cameron, Jim Keay, and another volunteer who manages a number of buoys but wishes to remain anonymous.



If you notice that a buoy is missing from its usual spot or taking refuge under your dock, please notify Neil at 613-757-3064, 613-639-4591, or mantifeln@aecl.ca. His contact info is also listed in the 2011 RLPOA Business Directory.

Please be aware that not all hazards are marked. Boat safely.

Purchasing a whole new supply of buoys was a financial challenge for the RLPOA, and we express grateful thanks to the **Township of Killaloe Hagarty and Richards, who donated 50% of the cost.** As RLPOA Community Involvement Chair Patricia Holst pointed out, boaters who use Round Lake are a combination of waterfront property owners, general Township residents, and visitors from outside KHR who come to fish and enjoy the lake. The cooperation received from KHR to help keep them safer is appreciated.

We have a limited number of **used buoys** and offer them for **sale to RLPOA members** at \$20.00 per, maximum two per property, on a first-come/first-serve basis. In order to purchase a buoy, you must sign a disclaimer. Call Wendy at (613) 592-1758 or 613- 757-3235.

A Repeat: Ride with Respect Section 43 of the Small Vessel Regulations prohibits:

operating vessels at **high engine regime in circular crisscross patterns** for extended periods of time in the same location; jumping the wake waves of another vessel unreasonably close to that vessel or so as to cause engine RPM to peak and make unusual or excessive noise; disturbing the peace or causing annoyance; **weaving through congested traffic** at more than a slow speed; swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision (playing "chicken"); operating a vessel at a speed higher than necessary to maintain steerageway when near swimmers or non-powered vessels.



and requires that:

powered vessels only travel up to **10 km per hour when within 30 metres of the shore**, except when towing water skiers; **mufflers** be in good working order and in use when the engine is being operated.

More Boating Safety Tips

The following article was published under the title "Children and Boating Safety" by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, with thanks to J. Gullick of the Canadian Safe Boating Council for the ideas.

Family boating is an opportunity to enjoy, while teaching children the responsibilities of safe boating. Here are some ways to make it a safe trip, every time.

Wear it!

Life jackets and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are the most important safety equipment on your boat. At the beginning of each season everyone should check their PFD and try it in the water. Put on your life jacket, enter the water to chest depth and slowly raise your legs. If it doesn't fit snugly or rides up, readjust or choose a new size. If it's ripped or worn, get a new one. **Warning:** PFDs are very difficult to put on once you are in the water. Try it in a controlled, safe situation to see for yourself why they are best worn at all times in open boats while underway!

Carry it!

If kids are going to operate any powered boat, even under adult supervision, they must be able to prove operator competency. Taking a course* and getting your Pleasure Craft Operator Cards is a great family activity. Remember, new regulations went into affect on April 15, 2011. Visit the boating pages of the FOCA website for updates.

Read it!

Before you go, get the kids involved in going through the Transport Canada Boating Safety Guide**(available at most marine outlets) to check the list of safety equipment required for your boat. Is all the safety gear on board and in good repair? Review where everything is located and how to use it.

Check it!

When the trip is over, circle the vessel and clean up. Check for wear and tear, leaks, and used safety items that should be replaced and serviced. Aim to leave the vessel in the same condition it was in before you left.

Visit www.SmartBoater.ca for more boating safety tips and videos.

* See the enclosed RLPO flyer re the July 6 Golden Lake POA course.

** In 2009, the RLPOA delivered this booklet to all of the waterfront property owners in our membership area. We have a limited supply left, so if you did not receive one, contact Wendy at (613) 592-1758 or wengel@roger.com

KHR Township Swim Program



The six-week instructional program at Bonnechere Provincial Park (Round Lake Road) beach **starts Monday, July 4th.** Seasonal residents who have missed the registration date may enroll at the beach. Park staff will issue passes at the gate to swim program participants.

Puma Sighting (Aka Cougar, Mountain Lion)



On the morning of April 25, Joanne Rowlinson and her husband Brian Morton had an experience which most people will not share in a lifetime: A puma appeared on Round Lake Road between Jack's Lake and Beechnut Lake Road, about two yards from their vehicle. There was an alleged sighting about two years ago on east Red Rock Road, so this area seems to be part of at least one puma's habitat.

The following information is from the Ontario Puma Foundation website (<http://ontariopuma.ca>), Living with Pumas.

It is important to remember that the puma plays an important role in our ecosystem. As a top predator, the puma maintains a check on its main food source, the white-tailed deer.

The puma is an extremely elusive animal. **Your chances of encountering one are remote, and the occasions of an attack are extremely rare.** However, puma sightings in Ontario have increased dramatically over the past ten years and the Ontario Puma Foundation feels it is necessary to educate the public on living with pumas.

Be Prepared!

Here are some suggestions to increase your safety in Puma country. Be aware of your surroundings—conduct yourself and attend to children accordingly. Don't feed wildlife. Attracting deer will also attract their predator—the puma. If you have a garden that attracts deer, fence it off and remove cover vegetation immediately around the garden if living in remote areas where pumas have been sighted. Keep pets secure preferably in a kennel with an enclosed roof. Keep pets inside at dawn and dusk and do not leave food outside that will attract prey animals. Roaming pets become easy prey for a puma. Secure livestock in barns or sheds at night.

Do not approach a puma. Pumas want to avoid humans, so leave space for them to make their escape. Educate your children about pumas and other wildlife and supervise your children if they are outside at dawn and dusk. Backpack, hike and camp with a companion in remote areas.

Never run away from or pass a puma. This may trigger an instinct to chase. Never bend or crouch. This emulates a four-legged prey and exposes your back and neck to a puma. If you encounter a puma, become the aggressor. Make eye contact, appear large, throw stones, pick up branches, use garden tools, spread your jacket over your head, speak loudly and firmly, and do not turn your back.

Encourage your children to fight back. Pick children up without bending over if possible. A large group of people appears much more aggressive than individuals.

About Bears

(From the Bearwise info at www.mnr.gov.on.ca)

Don't invite bears to the cottage!

Most problems between black bears and humans occur when bears are attracted by the smell of and rewarded with an easy meal. When bears pick up a scent with their keen noses, they will investigate it—even at your cottage property. If bears are rewarded with feasts of bird food, garbage or pet food, they will return as long as the food source continues to be available. It takes all cottagers working together to eliminate the attractants and to stop bear problems. Here are some tips to help avoid these unwanted visitors.



What cottagers can do:

Fill bird feeders only through the winter months. Never purposely feed bears (or other wildlife) or try to approach them. Put garbage in containers that have tight fitting lids, and only put it out on garbage day, not the night before. Store garbage in a bear-resistant container, secure shed or garage. Do not store garbage in plywood boxes, old freezers or vehicles. Do not stockpile garbage; take it to the dump frequently. Never leave garbage behind. If you must leave before garbage day, or if you do not have curbside pick up, take your garbage with you when you go. Take it to the dump or to your home. Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day. Do not leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors, not outside or in screened in areas or porches. Remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills, including the grease cup underneath, after each use. Do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your compostor. Pick all ripe fruit off trees, and remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground. Encourage your neighbours to practice good Bear Wise habits. If you rent your cottage, tell your tenants the importance of being Bear Wise.

You are responsible for your own personal safety. Take precautions when you are in the outdoors. Visit ontario.ca/bearwise to learn more.



Avoid encounters!

Make noise as you move through wooded areas - especially in areas where visibility is restricted or where background noise is high, such as near streams and waterfalls. Singing, whistling or talking will alert bears to your presence, giving them a chance to avoid you. While outdoors, keep your eyes and ears open. Do not wear music headphones. Watch for signs of bear activity, like tracks, claw marks on trees, flipped-over rocks or fresh bear droppings. If you are out with a dog, leash it. Uncontrolled, untrained dogs may actually lead a bear to you. Pay attention, especially if you are undertaking activities like working, gardening or berry picking. Occasionally scan your surroundings to check for bears. Rise slowly from your crouched position so you don't startle any nearby bears. They may not recognize you as a human when you are in a crouched position.

Think about safety

Carry and have readily accessible a whistle or an air horn. Learn how to carry and use bear pepper spray. Know its limitations. If you are in "back country" consider carrying a long-handled ax.



Whenever you spot or encounter a black bear:

Stop. Do not panic. Remain calm. Do not try to get closer to the bear for a better look or picture. Never feed a bear. Do not run, climb a tree or swim. Quickly assess the situation and try to determine which type of an encounter this might be - sighting, surprise or close encounter.

Always watch the bear. While watching, slowly back away until the bear is out of sight. If you are near a building or vehicle get inside as a precaution. If you are berry picking or enjoying other outdoor activities like hiking, jogging, cycling or camping, leave the area. Tell others about bear activity in the area.

Township of Killaloe Hagarty & Richards

Waste Management Planning Public Meeting
Saturday, August 6, 9:00 - noon
St. Casimir's Church, Round Lake Centre

In undertaking the development of a long-term solid waste management solution for the Township, KHR has been researching various options and holding public update meetings as they advance toward a decision. This is an opportunity for those who are concerned about potential environmental and/or financial consequences of the plan to question and comment. **We urge you to attend.**

Hazardous Waste Day
Saturday, August 27, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Municipal Garage Yard, Highway 60

Please keep poisonous, toxic, combustible, and corrosive material out of our waste sites and therefore out of ground water supplies. KHR volunteers will accept this material at the Township Garage. Take Simpson Pit Road from Round Lake Centre and turn right onto Hwy . 60.



The future stability of your Round Lake Property Owners' Association and the work it does on behalf of the lake and its property owners depends on your support today!

The following basic points may save your life, and your property!

- **Smoke detectors** are required by law in homes, travel and tent trailers, cabins, bunkies - any enclosed sleeping accommodations. Be sure your batteries are current.
- **Carbon monoxide detectors** are recommended.
- Both sides of your **911 sign** should be clearly visible from the road.
- Keep lanes brushed to a **minimum width of 14 feet on both sides**, to allow emergency vehicles adequate clearance.
- Post your **civic address** in a prominent place **near your telephone**. Renters and guests (and distressed owners) will need to give the necessary information if they have to make that call to 911.
- **Daytime burning is not allowed. Burning is not allowed at any time during dry periods.** Keep an eye on the hazard conditions dial near the Round Lake Fire Hall on Round Lake Road (County Rd. 58), west of Round Lake Centre. Fire hazard warnings are also posted on MNR's website (Pembroke District).



A false alarm bylaw is now in effect in KHR. On the first occasion, the property owner receives a written warning. Subsequent false alarms result in stiff fines.

The KHR Fire Department's annual **Open House** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 23**, at the Round Lake Fire Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Displays and hands-on opportunities will be fun and educational for adults and children alike. **A special treat** awaits hockey fans who attend: **Ottawa Senators Defenceman Matt Carkner** will be there to sign autographs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

KUDOS!

A huge thank you from the Round Lake property owners to all who have stepped forward to do what you can. Many of you are listed in the RLPOA Business Directory. Appreciation is also extended to Glenda Baker, who greatly improves the appearance and readability of our newsletters.

To all who support the RLPOA with memberships, donations and participation in fundraising activities, we thank you for contributing to the essential financial foundation that makes it possible for us to do our best for the lake and its permanent and seasonal residents.

We thank our volunteer fire department, local OPP officers, KHR roads crew, and other emergency services for their 24/7 dedication to our safety.

And-we thank property owners and visitors who treat Round Lake with care and respect.

Garden Smart

from FOCA: An article by Hayley Anderson, Coordinator,
Ontario Invasive Plant Council

What You Need to Know About Cottage Gardening and Invasive Plants



"Invasive plants" are those that have been introduced to an area outside their native range and that negatively affect the environment, economy or society. Beware: In Ontario we have over 441 invasive plant species, and some of them are sold in nurseries and garden centres! Here are some tips for every cottage gardener.

Right Plant, Right Place

Research plants before bringing them to the cottage. Certain plants that are well-behaved additions to our city gardens become aggressive nightmares at the cottage because of different soil or growing conditions, the lack of containment barriers or long periods without maintenance that facilitate their escape into the wild. Aim to keep aggressive garden plants away from natural areas entirely.

Goutweed and periwinkle are common in urban gardens because they grow where little else thrives, create dense groundcover, and are generally contained by cement/asphalt. At the cottage, these species can quickly spread into natural areas and become unmanageable invasives, out-competing native species and resulting in harmful impacts.

Yellow iris and flowering rush are common "riparian" (existing zone between land and water) garden species, however once introduced to wetlands or natural areas, they can quickly take over, causing considerable harm. These species create dense monocultures or unsuitable habitat for native species.

Water Garden Essentials

Keep water garden plants and "pets" contained. Don't choose fanwort, water soldier (also called water alioe) or the Eurasian common reed. Instead choose native or nonnative species such as hornwort" fragrant (white) water lilly or big blue stem.

When building a water garden, ensure that it is situated well away from any natural water body so that species cannot escape into the wild. Compost water garden plants or dispose of them in your public waste. Never dump or intentionally release them into the lake.

What NOT to Compost



It's surprising what will still grow and produce seed after being cut down or pulled out, especially plants like garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. These plants can continue to grow in your compost pile, and spread from there into natural areas. Properly dispose of yard waste through your municipality. Never dump yard waste in natural areas; it can be prohibited, and can further spread invasive species.

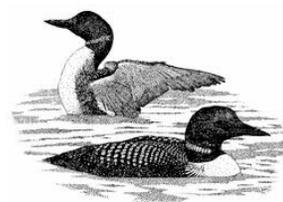
Native Naturals

Learn about invasive plants and alternatives. Research and choose native or noninvasive species. "Native plants" are those that are indigenous to a particular area or region. They have evolved over thousands of years in response to the local climate, and in association with other native species. There are many beautiful options that can be purchased at your garden centre. Bonus: They also provide a greater benefit to wildlife.

For more information or to report sighting of an invasive species, contact the invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or visit www.invadingspecies.com or www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca.

Preserving Our Loon Population

Most of us would find our Round Lake experience considerably diminished without the beautiful sight and sounds of our loons. Concern has been expressed that high spring water levels may be detrimental to loon nests. The RLPOA is working hard to effect changes to the Water Management Plan.



The following will help to educate recreationists as to how they can ensure that their actions are not added to the threats faced by loon chicks. The information has been taken from a brochure developed by the Otter Lake Ratepayers Association, adapted from brochures produced by Friends of the Rideau, the Michigan Loon Preservation Association and the Montana Loon Society.

Common loons are large diving birds that spend their summer in open, fresh water lakes, and their winters on the seacoast. During the summer, they sport distinctive black and white breeding plumage. They are .06 to 1 metre long, weigh 4 to 5 kilograms and have a wingspan of 1.2 to 1.5 metres. Nests are usually on small islands or the back end of bays and inlets. Since loons only have one or two chicks per year, each one counts. Their survival depends on their staying healthy until they are strong enough to fly south in the late fall.

Watercraft and Loons



There are many ways that watercraft can have a negative effect on loons. Powerboats can send waves crashing into shorelines, drowning nests. Fishing boats, primarily bass and pike anglers, frequent areas preferred by loons for nest sites. Canoes can slip quietly into nesting areas and startle loons off their nests. Personal Watercraft can speed in shallow water and run over chicks. Boats pulling wake boarders, skiers and tubers may speed near shorelines and run over chicks.

Loon parents will leave the nest if a watercraft comes within 150 metres. This leaves the eggs without warmth and protection. The parents may abandon the nest if they are disturbed too often. Later attempts to re-nest result in a very low likelihood of hatch and survival.

Young chicks are not waterproof. They need to be able to climb onto their parents' backs to stay warm and dry. When watercraft come close, the parents leave their chicks to defend their territory.

Young chicks can't dive very quickly or deep, as they are quite buoyant. They are therefore particularly vulnerable to being run over by watercraft, particularly from June to September.

Chicks tire easily. The presence of watercraft causes them to keep swimming instead of feeding and resting. This can weaken them, affecting their ability to survive.

Chicks frequent open water, as parents move them away from their nesting environment, out into deeper water along more open shorelines to avoid predators. Unfortunately, this puts them into direct conflict with watercraft, particularly PWCs and boats pulling wake boarders, skiers and tubers.

Be aware, listen and watch Move away!

If you see a loon between June and September, chances are that one or two chicks will be close by. If it starts to call if you approach, this means you are too close. If you see a loon "dancing" straight up in the water and slapping with its wings, it is alarmed by your presence. **Move away!**

Report harassment

It is against the law. Report to your local MNR, local OPP, or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. Videotaping the event and/or recording the vessel's registration number are helpful.

Get the lead out!

To help digestion, loons ingest small pebbles (grit) from the bottom of the lake. They often have 20-30 in their gizzard at one time. If this material contains lead, which can be in the form of small sinkers, jigs or shotgun shot, poisoning of the loon will occur. Choose non-toxic alternatives such as steel and bismuth-now readily available.

What about Fish Stocking?



The RLPOA is currently looking at the various considerations involved. It will take some time to sort through. Meanwhile, we have heard from a good number of fishing enthusiasts who what can and needs to be done. would be willing to help. Stay tuned.

Severe Weather in Ontario

In the spring and summer, weather cautions can have a typically shorter lead-time than in winter. 5% of all thunderstorms are severe, and can include large hail, very heavy rain, damaging winds, and tornadoes. **Watches**, give potential for severe weather. Be alert! **Warnings** convey that a severe storm will soon occur or is occurring. Take action!

Tornadoes are classified as follows: **F-0** (winds 64-116 km/h, light damage to chimneys, trees, sign boards); **F-1** (winds 117-180, moderate damage such as shingles blown and autos pushed off the road); **F-2** (winds 181-253, roofs torn off frame houses, large trees uprooted, windows blown in); **F-3** (winds 254-332, severe damage to well constructed houses, heavy vehicles thrown); **F-4** (winds 333-418, devastating damage, well constructed houses leveled" apartment buildings twisted; trains overturned); **F-5** (winds 419-512, incredible damage, strong houses carried considerable distances to disintegrate, steel reinforced structures badly damaged, automobile-sized missiles airborne over 100 m).



Given that expected occurrences of F-3's are every 8 years and one occurred 15 years ago, and that F-4's would be expected every 15 years and it has been 25 since the last occurrence, **Ontario is overdue.**

Myths (NOT true!): There are few hurricanes in Ontario; they don't occur in a big city, near the Great Lakes, near hilly terrain, or at night. **Fact (TRUE!):** Although the majority occurs in late p.m. or early evening, they can and do appear during the night-some have arrived at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m.

Safety Tips



How many of us get in that last waterski or swim even though we can hear thunder? If you can hear it, the storm is close enough to be potentially dangerous. **"When the sky roars, get indoors!"** is a good motto. Seek the most solid and best shelter immediately, and remain there for a full 30 minutes after the last rumble.

For a tornado or a downburst, the best shelter is a well-constructed building with a basement, and as many walls between yourself and the outside as possible. Stay away from windows. Avoid such buildings as shopping centres with wide span roofs.

Camping and no shelter? Don't forget that in the middle of the night, there will be no city lights to illuminate the area. When you arrive, plan a good place to go/gather: a thick stand of trees with uniform height (not the tallest in the area). A last resort could be a low-lying spot: lie flat and protect your head. A weather radio and/or smart phone are good tools for checking on conditions.

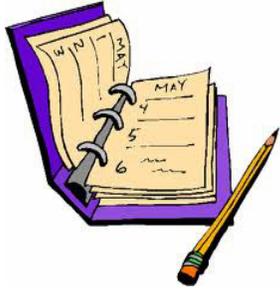
2010 was one of the hottest years on record, and **more extremes are expected** in the form of significant rain events, hot spells and droughts. Stay hydrated, limit your time outside, wear light clothing, take frequent drinks, and watch the elderly for rapid breathing and/or weakness.

A Cottage Diary

(By Larry Wade)

A great gift to the family from all of you.

How many of you have owned your cottage for decades and asked yourselves: When did we build that extra bedroom? What year did Johnny catch the huge trout that won the prize? What did this place really cost us?



A regular diary is a private thing, but a **cottage diary is for the whole family - everyone can contribute.** Keeping a short, simple diary of your cottage and of your kids' development during summers at the lake may turn out to be well worth the little effort involved. It may even prevent arguments! Certainly **it will provide enjoyment when read in the years to come.**

With the exception of those people for whom the lake is their permanent address, for most of us our cottage is a secondary home and therefore will eventually attract capital gains taxes, whether we sell it or pass it on to our kids. You can't take it with you. ("You can't?", a friend once asked. "Then I'm not going!") So eventually, you will not only have to know all the capital costs associated with your cottage and when they occurred, but also be able to prove them on paper. (Maintenance costs such as repairs after storms, etc. do not add to the capital gain of your property, but you may still wish to know what they were.) Keep your bills! The location of all those documents could be noted in your cottage diary.

A large 8.5" by 11" hardcover book with lined, numbered pages might work well. Big makes it less easy to lose, and hard cover eliminates the temptation to remove pages. (Get it right the first time.) Numbering - by hand if necessary - will help you remember where to find things later. (You can easily refer back to where they should have been recorded.)

Write your name, address, telephone number and email address inside the front cover in case of loss.

Write your diary by hand, or attach your typed pages with glue. Don't start the beginning of each year right after last year - leave a page or two for things you may have forgotten.

For almost everyone a cottage diary will require a bit of family input. Members recalling



events of summers past would be a fun way to spend a rainy day at the lake. In fact, it might be a good idea this year to start using a loose-leaf book, and even assign different family members to different sections. Dad could look after the

numbers, Mom the cottage changes, and kids could go through old photos and list the visitors. Then in the fall when you have all the info, transfer it into your hardcover book-your official Cottage Diary! Don't forget to pepper your diary with lots of photos.

Suggestions

The basics of your cottage diary will be non-recurring items: when you acquired the building, boat, septic tank, etc. These are the challenging things to research, but it may not be important to know the exact year for each. As for the things that occur annually, choose from the following list or add to it, but don't be afraid to change your minds as to what is most important to you as the years pass. You might even want to cut it out to stick it into the back of your book, as a reminder of what you had decided was important. This list is probably much too long, but perhaps it will give you some ideas.

Property: year bought, lot address probably using the 911 designation, original cost, frontage, lot number, township and its address, roll number, property dimensions and area, seller's name and address, lawyer's name and address, legal fees, location of deed, location of surveyor stakes at property corners.

Cottage/home: builder's name if it's new, dimensions, basics of the rooms on each floor, water source, driveway type, septic system type and size and its exact location, installer's name and address, name and address of a company that could pump it. Include all buildings on your lot.

- **Dock:** type, source and cost
- **Boats:** type, power, cost, maintenance recommended.
- **Garden Size:** when trees planted or removed.
- **Water Well:** type and size of pump, its source, where to get repairs.
- **Electricity and Telephone:** location of underground entry or passage under driveway, etc.

■ **Annual Entries:** MPAC evaluation, taxes, electrical costs including fixed plus consumption in kwh and cost, insurance, annual costs of road if it's private, local cottage area membership name and annual membership cost, beach depth, photograph of beach from cottage and from water, hopefully showing trees so that in future you can show what damage might have occurred due to ice push, high water level or weather damage. Cottage, beach or dock changes or additions e.g. major furniture acquired, breakdowns, if repainted in or out, septic tank pumped, fires, break-ins, other problems, when cottage opened and closed and procedure.

- **Visitors:** major parties or maybe even all visitors.
- **Reminders To Yourself:** (Some but not all are annual - perhaps in a separate section): date of seasonal telephone start and stop, frequency of septic tank pumping, did you call the police to tell them when you will close up your cottage as the police have advised us to do, testing of drinking water, buy plumber's antifreeze and water filters.

■ **Above all:** Have a great time recalling and making more memories of Round Lake! A cottage diary will ensure that they never fade.