



Newsletter

We're dedicated to keeping Charleston Lake beautiful in every way!

Vol. 105, No. 3

Fall, 2005

Annual General Meeting 2005

By Matt Flikweert

The Annual General Meeting of the Charleston Lake Association took place July 9 at the Anglican Church Hall on Oak Leaf Road. The agenda included: Minutes of the AGM 2004, President's Report, Treasurer's Report, a presentation by Gary Nielson of the Leeds County Stewardship Council, the Charleston Lake Environmental Association Report, Election of Directors and New Business. Canon Borden Purcell asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Charleston Lake resident Bill Kelsey. By way of prayer, Purcell also urged everyone to look upon this area as "sacred and holy", the same as natives and very early inhabitants, who may have used the mysterious Causeway, considered this area to be "sacred and holy." Before presenting the

President's Report, President Curry introduced several special guests: LTTI Councilor Douglas Macintosh, Athens Councilor John Conley (Chair of the CRCA), Don Ross ((Frontenac Arch Biosphere), Insurance Provider Roger Kelsey and newly appointed Info Centre Manager, Amanda Carruthers.

President's Report

President Curry stated that "No other lake in Eastern Ontario, perhaps in all of Ontario, is receiving the attention and tender loving care being given to Charleston Lake. As we enjoy our beautiful Charleston Lake this summer many people are on the lake working hard to ensure the lake stays beautiful for our children and their children. Working on the lake this summer are: Jane McCann, conducting a lake trout creel survey; two stu-

dents, placing bass and trout conservation pamphlets on all cars and trucks with a boat trailer attached; John Welch, of the local Health Unit managing a sewage system-re inspection program; Reg Genge conducting the year 2005 water quality testing program and a Biosphere contractor, conducting shoreline assessments. Curry asked everyone to use the Enviro Friendly Products available at the Info Centre, implement the Shoreline Assessment recommendations and inspect and pump out (every three years) sewage systems. Annual association fees need to be raised, Curry suggested, and the association needs more members willing to serve as directors. He also informed the members that the Charleston Lake Associa-

tion and the Charleston Lake Environmental Association were named Organizations-of-the Year in the Athens Township during July 1 celebrations in Athens.

Guest Speaker

Director Bill Borger introduced the guest speaker, Gary Nielson of the Leeds County Stewardship Council. Neilson presented a three-part presentation entitled: "A Progress Report on Lake Management Activities." The first part of the presentation described the activities of the Stewardship Council. The second part of the presentation explained why Charleston Lake is important to everyone and part three of the presentation discussed Charleston Lake Strategic Management Activities.

(Continued on page 8)

Congratulations, Senator

Congratulations to member and CLEA Director, Hugh Segal, on his appointment to the Upper House of the Government of Canada; The Senate.

An appointment well deserved.

Best wishes for a long, challenging and rewarding career as a Senator.

Directors, Charleston Lake Association

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See page 9 - Our new website is www.ashwoods.info/cla/

The Board reports...

President's Message

What a wonderful summer it was at beautiful Charleston Lake. The weather was spectacular and from all reports good times were enjoyed all across the lake.

Very much appreciated is the letter to the president from member Andra Gerry (please see page 4). As recommended, we will introduce a new association service called *Waterfront Living—Answers to Your Questions* (Please refer to the announcement on this page).

Your directors have a very busy schedule this fall and winter. Top priorities are :

- Review and implementation of the recommendations contained in both the *Lake Capacity Study* and the *Lake Trout Creel Survey*.
- Completion and introduction of the *Lake Management Plan*.
- Action orientated steps to obtain a Fair Taxation

System for waterfront property owners. A special information package dealing with the now critical property tax issue will be mailed to you before year-end.

- Opposition to a plan by the MNR to charge rent for structures located on crown land (please refer to the letter from the MNR on page 3).
- Also opposition to a request to the MOE from an individual to remove water from the
- Gananoque River which could result in lowering water levels on Charleston Lake during the summer months.
- Stocking the lake with native lake trout spring 2006. Investigate the possibility of producing a simple one page fishing document re the proper way to release fish, what sizes of fish to keep for consumption, and what size should be released for breeding purposes.

- Introduction of an Association web-site. (Please refer to page 9)
- Continuance of the highly successful youth camp and swimming lesson programs. Consider introducing family fun activities such as a picnic in the county park and a lake wide treasure hunt.
- Work with township councils and fire departments re improved fire services for waterfront properties. Develop a program to improve boating safety and to protect the shoreline from boat wake erosion. Involve day trippers to the lake in this program.

In your opinion, have we overlooked an important priority ? If so please advise of this priority by e-mail to ashwoods@rideau.net or by mail to the Charleston Lake Association at Box 609, Athens On, K0E1B0.

A Tip of the Hat to the Charleston Lake Environmental Association (CLEA) for another highly successful golf tournament. Also for combining their efforts with ours in guaranteeing the right of future generations to enjoy the natural heritage of the lake as we have, undiminished in any way. Please support this wonderful organization.

Your association directors join with me in wishing you and your families a healthy and happy fall and winter.

Don Curry

NEW ASSOCIATION SERVICE

Waterfront Living—Answers to Your Questions

Wouldn't it be nice, whenever you have questions about lake quality, waterfront projects - in fact about any aspect of living on Charleston Lake - if an expert would answer your questions?

Your Association thinks so too. In the Winter, 2006 Newsletter, we will introduce a new service for members; *Waterfront Living—Answers to Your Questions*.

Please submit your questions to the Association, by mail to the Charleston Lake Association, Box 609, Athens ON, K0E 1B0 or by e-mail to don.curry@sympatico.ca.

Note--when appropriate we will print your question and the expert's answer in the Association's Newsletter. However, we will not identify the person(s) who asked the question.

Coming February, 2006 in our winter newsletter -
the first edition of "Waterfront Living—Answers to Your Questions".



Newsletter

This newsletter is published regularly by the Charleston Lake Association for its members and those persons interested in Charleston Lake. Comments and/or submissions are welcome, and should be forwarded to The Secretary, Charleston Lake Association, P. O. Box 609, Athens, Ont., K0E 1B0.

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Information,
Call 613-924-2809

While the Association makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this newsletter, it cannot accept responsibility for errors and omissions. Readers are urged to obtain professional advice before acting on the basis of the material contained in this newsletter.

For your information...

MNR to levy fees

The following is the text of a letter received by the Charleston Lake Association from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Please see our comments at the bottom of the page.

P.O. Box 2002
10 Campus Drive Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

September 12, 2005

Charleston Lake Association
PO Box 607, Athens, ON K0E 1B0

RE: Boathouses on Crown Lake Bed

I am writing to update you on the above noted subject as it may pertain to some members of your association.

As you may recall, in May 2000 the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) temporarily suspended the collection of rents for boathouse sites pending an MNR review of the practice to address concerns that the rental approach was not being implemented in a fair and equitable manner. The review has been completed and in recommending the resumption of rent collection, it recognized the need to reform the program in the following ways:

- Our *Free Use of Crown Land* policy was revised to better clarify the distinction between 'free use' boat storage facilities and boathouses containing living accommodations;
- The occupational authority, or tenure, to be issued for most boathouse sites will be standardized in the form of a Lease, which will provide a secure form of tenure for boathouse owners, and a more equitable rental rate structure;
- Rental rates will be established using credible and current market value information;
- The program will be implemented consistently throughout all of Ontario, not just in certain parts of the province.

Our *Free Use of Crown Land* policy, with respect to boathouses, is as follows:

'The following uses of Crown land do not require land use occupational authority or the payment of a fee or rent:

- single storey boathouses, provided they are used strictly for private recreational or commercial tourism non-revenue producing purposes and are in compliance with the following:
 - a) are mutually considered to be a necessary adjunct to the use and enjoyment of the adjoining upland property;
 - b) are located directly in front of the owner's/occupier's

adjoining upland property or a shoreline road allowance or Crown shoreline reserve;

- c) have been approved or exempted by the Canadian Coast Guard under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, if applicable;
- d) are in compliance with applicable permitting requirements;
- e) and are used only for the storage and docking of boats and related equipment.'

If a boathouse does not meet the above criteria, for example, it has a second storey, contains living accommodation or is located remote from the owner's privately owned upland property, then occupational authority and the payment of an annual rent is required. The owner of such a structure is realizing significantly, more benefit from their use of Crown land than the owner of a more conventional boathouse and, consistent with MNR strategic direction, the rent provides a fair return to the people of Ontario for this exclusive use and occupation of Crown land.

Although annual rents that would have been due during the May 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005 period will be waived, we will resume the collection of rent for 2006.

Consistent with our *Crown Land Rental* policy, annual rents will be set at 6% of the market value of each site. The market value is based on the 'per square foot' value of the site, as determined by an accredited real estate appraiser, and the square footage of Crown lake bed occupied, as determined by a survey prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor.

Subject to satisfying site specific criteria, the option of purchasing these sites, at market value, will also be make available.

Over the next few months MNR staff may be inspecting boathouse sites on your lake in order to update our records and to determine whether or not they meet the 'free use' criteria. Owners of boathouses that do not meet the criteria will be individually contacted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Byers, Lands Resource Technician, at (613) 258-8385.

Yours truly,

Martin D. Blake
Area Supervisor
Kemptville District
Tel: (613) 258-8548
Fax: (613) 258-3920

Comment: The Board of Directors of the CLA does not support the MNR proposal now or in the future, and is currently seeking legal advice on how to deal with the proposal.

Around the lake...

A Wonderful Facility

"Maple View Lodge has taken our residents on a picnic outing to Charleston Lake for the past ten years.

This July we took a bus load to the County Park Pavilion at Sand Bay.

The pavilion provided the necessary shade and even footing while offering such a spectacular view of the lake. There was lots of room for John Fontyn to set up his musical equipment.

There are not many off-site locations suitable for our residents, most requiring either walkers or wheel chairs.

Our thanks to the Charleston Lake Associations for raising the funds to construct this wonderful facility."

Sincerely,

*June Giles
Activity Director,
Maple View lodge
July 2005*

Our thanks to the County, The Township Of Athens and to the Contractors and Suppliers whose efforts and financial contributions made the pavilion possible.

*The Directors,
Charleston Lake
Associations.*



Photo by Herb Buehler

Message to the President

When I heard about the proposed Charleston Lake Association membership fee increase to \$40/yr. my comment was, "That may be one of the few bargains left on the planet!"

I believe that to be the case because at the recent AGM I saw evidence that:

- The organization has shown good fiscal responsibility to its members
- There have been tangible improvements made to the Charleston Lake watershed area
- The organization has made it a priority to work collaboratively with other interest groups, private owners, municipal and regulatory bodies. There has been demonstrated success in this regard.
- There are ongoing efforts to better understand the dynamics of the lake environment and we know we can't protect what we don't understand

- I get a big kick out of the newsletter

If I was to make a request, I would like to see a Charleston Lake Question and Answer Forum supported on the Internet. The more wide-ranging Q&As might end up published in the newsletter.

I think it is sometimes difficult for those of us who do not live permanently on the Lake to access information. A Q&A forum for members could be a resource and provide direction on how to locate further information.

Thanks to all the conscientious, hardworking volunteers who serve the Association. We all benefit from their able efforts and dedication to the quality of our Lake.

Sincerely,

*Andra Gerry
Buck Island*

Are
you
moving
?

Make sure
your
Newsletter
moves with
you!

Take a moment to
provide us with your
new address so that
we can ensure unin-
terrupted delivery of
your Association
Newsletter .

3 easy ways
to do it:

Phone
613-924-1598

E-mail
ashwoods@rideau.net

Mail
CLA
P.O. Box 609
Athens, ON
K0E 1B0

Around the lake...

Land Trust Gift extends Park

By Margaret Brand
The Review-Mirror

A well loved local provincial park just got a little bigger with the help of some of its friends.

A 61-hectare parcel of land has been added to the Charleston Lake Provincial Park's western boundary thanks to the efforts of the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (TIWLT). The park now encompasses 2414 hectares of land.

The group negotiated the purchase of the land in May, gathering partners for its funding in just a few days. Last February Park Superintendent Tim Truesdell discovered the land was for sale on an Internet real estate website and recognized the value of the property to the park.

"Not only is this piece of land ecologically important, it forms a bridge for possible future additions," said Truesdell.

The land is completely land-locked, and includes areas with old white pines, steep ridges and swampy lowlands. It will be included in the park as a nature reserve.

Truesdell said the land was the largest purchase of land in the history of the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and its first purchase outside of the Thousand Islands area. Contributors to the purchase were the Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust (\$5,000), the Friends of Charleston Lake Park (\$3,000), three private donors

(\$10,000) and Ontario Parks (\$10,000).

Charleston Lake Park was officially opened as a provincial park in 1975, a project spearheaded by the offer of the sale of a large lakeside

tract of Gananoque native Dr. Arthur Child.

In 1997 the territory of the park was expanded by 1425 hectares after crown land in the Blue Mountain area, as well as crown islands in

Charleston Lake, were added to the park.

This article is reproduced from the Review Mirror with permission

Youth Camp



Charleston Lake Association Youth Camp participants pose for a photo, wearing autographed hand painted Friendship T-shirts, at Charleston Lake Sand Bay Park Friday, July 8, 2005.

– Photo Matt Flikweert

By Matt Flikweert

Twenty-three youngsters, 5-12 years old, registered for a three day Charleston Lake Association sponsored Youth Camp at Charleston Lake Sand Bay Park. Leaders were Lorrie Somerville (supervisor), Jenna Bell, Sarah Sanders, Apryl Westerman and life guard Julia Wiseman. Overall co-ordinator was CLA director, Irene Ireland.

The program focused on the environment, water and

friendship. "Small Camp, Big Impact," stated Ireland. Participants enjoyed daily swims, played games, enjoyed treasure hunts, went hiking and painted 'lady bug' rock pets. The group enjoyed excellent weather and "no bugs," said Somerville. Everyone adopted a tree and had lunch under their tree. The program also included a session on Water Safety with Punta, the Water Safety Bear, and the Ministry of Natural Resources conducted a Black

Rat presentation introducing a live 20-year-old female Black Rat Snake specimen.

The last day of camp featured a wrap up BBQ and Friendship Salads. Participants also recorded 'camp memories' in their daily journals and framed photographs of an outdoor activity in their self made bark picture frames.

This article and photo are reprinted by permission, courtesy of The Mural.

For your information...

News from the Environmental Association

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of fellow Charleston Lake residents and supporters: Bill Kelsey, Glen Ireland, Ralph Steacy and Amanda Tristram. Our condolences, sympathies and prayers continue to their families. We wish to recognize and thank them and their families for designating our Association to receive In Memoriam donations in their names. Each of these people had attachments and love for Charleston Lake, along with a desire to keep it healthy and beautiful in every way. These donations will help fulfill their wishes.

ACTIVITIES

The Agricultural Stream program continues and has achieved significant gains toward prevention of waste and pollutant discharge reaching the Lake. We ac-

knowledge and respect the co-operation being received from the Agricultural Community. This program plays a major part in both current and long term water quality assessments and remains as our number "ONE" priority.

The 5-year program to assess the overall status of the Lake is nearing the final stages. All the field work for the Lake Capacity Study has been completed; the laboratory, analytical, formulae resolution and final conclusions are in the hands of the contractors and ministries that conducted the studies. It has been a comprehensive in depth review and now leads to the final step of preparing a Lake Management Plan for the future. This step is now in progress.

The third annual Golf

Tournament was held at The Village Green on August 13th. New records for overall participation, team scores and financial results were established. Sincere thanks are in order to the participants, the many businesses and merchants that provided sponsorships, prizes and other supports. There are too many to list so we thank you all again.. All proceeds flow to projects underway to sustain the Lake. A live auction of a number of attractive prizes donated to the cause helped in a big way to produce the financial results. The feature item was a beautiful Kayak donated by the Ireland family and Lake Line Lodge.

Principal team and individual winners in the tournament were:

- **Overall Low Gross Team** - Greg Judson, Dave Layng, Phil Taylor

and Larry Winters. Their new record low score of 58 was the winner only after a playoff with the defending champs Jerry Flynn, Arnold Read, Tyler Phillips and Don Atkinson who also completed the course with a score of 58.

- **Low Mixed Team** - Sharon & Ed Ristan, Jan Motter and John Neamtz
- **Low Ladies Team** - Karen and Jill Montgomery, Tammy Merkle and Belva Johnston
- **Low Nine Hole Team** - Anne McMahon, M. Marlatt, A. and J. Bethune
- **Longest Drive** - Ladies - Jamie Johnston, Men - **Woody Perrin**
- **Closest to Pin** - Ladies - Belva Johnston, Men - Larry Winters

We again extend our sincere appreciation to all of the golfers and to those attending the diner, auction and awards. We trust that everyone had a great time and look forward to the event next year

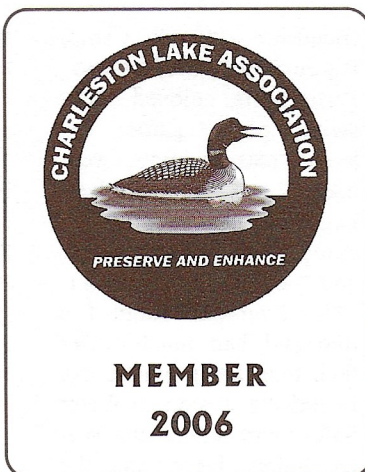
The Environmental Association is most grateful to those continuing and new Club 100 members (\$ 100 a year) and all supporters at all levels. We solicit your future contributions without which we would be unable to continue to function.

We remind you that any contributions are welcome and are covered by receipts for income tax deductions.

Christmas Gift Idea

The new membership decal is now available for members for 2006, and it will be sent to you soon if you have already paid your membership for next year.

Please consider giving a membership as a Christmas gift for friends on the lake, or a member of your family. In fact, a membership in the lake association is a good idea for anyone that has an interest in the lake, and a desire to keep it beautiful in



every way. It entitles them to the benefits of membership, such as

the reductions in insurance for the members group.

Many of our members already give memberships as a gift. Just send the information to the Association, and a Decal will be sent to you in time for stocking stuffing.

Of course, you can have your own decal sent to you as soon as we receive your membership renewal for next year

For your information...



Memories of a successful 2005 Golf Tournament



Photos courtesy
of the
Family of
Sharon Ristan



Around the lake...

AGM report—continued

(Continued from page 1)

Charleston Lake Environmental Association Report

In his report on activities of the Charleston Lake Environmental Association Doug Hale stated that “water quality is of the highest priority.” He also urged everyone there to use “Nature Clean” products. He also reminded everyone of the Golf Tournament on Aug. 13 and a seminar on July 14 at the Association Office.

Election of Officers

Ron Webster conducted the election of officers. Two-Year directors are Bill Borger, Don Curry, Amy Gaines and Dwayne Struthers. One-Year directors are Herb Buehler, Bill Hallam, Yvonne Landon and John Swift. Curry will remain as president. Director Irene Ireland announced her retirement as director. She received a “Sheila Ballantyne production entitled “Freedom of Flight”, in appreciation of her many years as director of the Charleston

Lake Association. In recent years, director Ireland particularly coordinated the Association’s Youth Program activities.

General Business

After a brief discussion on budget items, the meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of a membership rate increase of \$15 from \$25 to \$40. The association has 650 members. Privately owned properties on the lake number 832.

Questions about zebra mussels and private road support

produced limited discussion. “Zebra Mussels, are now part of the eco system,” stated director Bill Borger, but “we are monitoring,” he added. Concerns about the lack of private road support will be submitted to the various Township Councils.

*This article is reprinted by permission, courtesy of **The Mural** number 832.*

Land stewardship awards for farmers

The owners of five farms located in the Fosters Creek watershed, near Charleston Lake in eastern Ontario, have received the 2005 National Countryside Canada stewardship award. The award is presented annually to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to agricultural land stewardship and conservation.

During the past year, five landowners along Fosters Creek have worked in partnership to protect the watershed. All of these landowners have erected fencing to keep their cattle away from the creek. More than a thousand metres of new fencing have been built. And each farm has installed a watering system for livestock.

“The Fosters Creek project is demonstrating to area farmers that transporting water to cattle is an effective and efficient way to run a livestock operation,” says Lynn McIntyre, director of stewardship programs for Wildlife Habitat Canada. “The result is cleaner water, better habitat for fish and

wildlife and a healthier natural environment.”

The farmers of the Fosters Creek watershed are Lawrence Eyre, Doris Seabrooke, Mable Ferguson, Ron and Leita Sheffield, Don Elliot and Karen Anderson. Together they spearheaded the Fosters Creek Stream Assessment Project.



Accepting the Countryside Canada award are (L-R): Don Elliott, Karen Elliott, Richard Ferguson, Lynn McIntyre, Lawrence Eyre, Doris Seabrooke.

Recipients of a Countryside Canada award receive a framed limited edition print of *The Awakening*, a painting by artist Antony John. The painting was commissioned by Countryside Canada to symbolize the awards program. Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are the program's main sponsors.

*This article and photo are reprinted by permission, courtesy of **The Mural**.*

Photo: Sue Lackie

For your information...

Association website now online

The Charleston Lake Association now has its own website. It was launched on October 7, 2005. It was prepared by Herb Buehler, who also produces our newsletter

While there are still some items to be added, members can now access information and announcements of activities, programs and upcoming events between newsletters.

The website will also be used to place announcements of a time sensitive nature.

The new service of questions and answers (see page 2) will

be placed on the website. At the present time, there are no plans to place the newsletter on the site.

Our intention is to keep the website fairly simple in design, thereby making it easier to navigate. A map is still to come, and a few photos will be added for interest.

Naturally, comments and suggestions are welcome, and will be considered by the Board of Directors.

The Website may be accessed at www.ashwoods.info/cla/



*Our Best Wishes
for a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

The Directors

Info. Centre 2005 Operations Statistics

The following is a breakdown of visitor statistics for the 2005 operation of the Associations Information Centre. The Centre is also the venue of many meetings of the Board of Directors as well as other Associations' business.

Number of days open - 53
Number of visits - 108
Average visits per day open - 2.0

DISTRIBUTION OF VISITS BY MONTH

July-----79
August-----29

DISTRIBUTION OF VISITS BY DAY

Wed. ---11 Thurs. ---25 Fri.---24
Sat.---37 Sun.---11

DISTRIBUTION OF VISITS BY TIME

Am---46 (42.6 %)
Pm---62 (57.4 %)

REASONS FOR VISIT	Visits	%	July	August
Nature Clean Products	44	41	33	11
Information	26	24	14	12
Merchandise	15	14	10	5
Registrations	9	8	9	0
Membership fees	8	7	7	1
Other	6	6	6	0
Total	108	100	79	29

*Watch for a special mailing
in the last week of November.*

*It will contain information designed
to assist you in addressing the
property assessment notices you
recently received.*



For your information...



Charleston Lake Association Executive Directory 2005 - 2006

Officers

President • Don Curry
 Vice-President • Bill Borger
 Vice-President • Yvonne Landon
 Secretary / Treasurer • Herb Buehler

Directors

• Bill Borger
 • Herb Buehler
 • Don Curry
 • Amy Gaines
 • Bill Hallam
 • Yvonne Landon
 • Dwayne Struthers
 • John Swift

Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	PHONE	E-MAIL
Associated Organizations—Interfaces	Bill Hallam	659-2997	billhallam@hotmail.com
Environment and Land Conservancy	Bill Borger	924-2809	borgew@ripnet.com
Fish and Wildlife	Dwayne Struthers	275-2321	dls@ripnet.com
Information Centre / Office	Don Curry John Swift	924-1598 924-9330	don.curry@sympatico.ca johnandalicia@trytel.com
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Membership - Promotion	Herb Buehler Don Curry	326-0106 924-1598	ashwoods@rideau.net don.curry@sympatico.ca
Municipal Affairs	John Swift	924-9330	johnandalicia@trytel.com
Provincial Park	Yvonne Landon	659-2399	haybayla@1000island.net
Safety - Security (Fire - Police - Marker Buoys)	Glen Cuming Bill Borger	924-9318 924-2809	glencuming@yahoo.com borgew@ripnet.com
Strategic / Lake Plan	Don Curry Gary Nielsen	924-1598 342-8526	don.curry@sympatico.ca gary.nielsen@mnr.gov.on.ca
Water Levels	Bill Hallam	659-2997	billhallam@hotmail.com
Website and Policy Manual	Herb Buehler	326-0106	ashwoods@rideau.net
Youth & Social Activities	Amy Gaines	802-0995	amygaines@cheerful.com

Area Code 613 applies to all telephone numbers.