

# SALERNO LAKE SENTINEL

SUMMER 2007

## A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cottagers

I received this most eloquent letter recently and I'd like to share it with our membership. I invite any and all responses.

Dear Mr. Rodger, My parents, Bud and Marlene Edwards, have been long time cottage owners (approximately 50 years) on Salerno/Devils Lake.

We attended the annual meeting of the Salerno Cottagers' Association last summer. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the things you and the rest of the cottage association members do for the benefit of all of us. It was evident that you care about the lake, the health of the lake and you commit a lot of your personal time to

keep the association active and moving forward. I am also very happy that there is an environmental focus to make our lake healthier than it is. Thank you for your time and endeavours and a 'thank you' to the others involved.



*The Burgundy Trillium – a Salerno Lake specialty.*

At the annual general meeting, I heard a little about the impact that motor boats have on the shoreline and the wild life but I did not hear any discussion about their impact on the atmosphere at the lake. I was not brave enough to stand up and ask, hence I am doing so now, has there ever been

any discussion, or other inquiries with respect to setting limits on the size of the boats and their motor size on Salerno Lake?

(Continued on page5)

Salerno Lake, as you know is a rather narrow lake and motor boats are having a significant

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### Important Dates

- Fireworks– evening of June 30th
- Sat. Aug 4th 10 am. AGM at the Community Hall, St. John's United Church, Irondale
- Sunday Aug 5th 40th Annual Canoe Race and BBQ

## HOW THEY VOTED

Quoted from the minutes of the Highlands East Council Meeting of January 23, 2007

Be it resolved that the Municipality of Highlands East is NOT OPPOSED to a portable asphalt plant at the Bark Lake Quarry.

Suzanne Partridge – nay  
Donna Graham – nay  
Jim Mackie – yea  
Gary Stoughton – yea  
Dave Burton – yea  
From Highland's East

Quoted from minutes of

Council Meeting, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Hadlington Road Culverts & Dillmans Bridge Tender

Moved by Gary Stoughton,

Seconded by Jim Mackie

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the tender from ROYEL PAVING for the reconstruction of Hadlington Road Culverts and Dillman's Bridge Tender in the amount of **\$1,072,512.66** including GST.

Carried (continued on page 2)

## HOW THEY VOTED – PART 2

*One presumes this ‘Carried’ means the motion was carried unanimously. All in all, 2007 and the Council of Highlands East has been very good for the folks at Beamish/Royal Paving.*

In a recent phone conversation Reeve Burton promised to send me a statement regarding the reasons for his apparent change of position on the asphalt plant. As of this writing, no explanation has arrived.

### *Firehouse Follies*

Recorded Vote as of Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Termination of Employment  
Moved by Gary Stoughton  
Seconded by Jim Mackie

BE IT RESOLVED that the employment of Mr. Don Middleton with the Municipality of Highlands East as Fire Chief and Alternate Emergency Management Coordinator be terminated effective immediately without cause; AND THAT the employment of Mr. Don Middleton as a firefighter with the Municipality of Highlands East be terminated pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*.

## Cottage Rentals

If you are a member of the SDLCA and you wish to list a cottage property for rent, please forward your ad to [webmaster@salernolake.ca](mailto:webmaster@salernolake.ca)

Cottage available on Salerno Lake  
3 bedrooms plus sleeping loft-screened-in porch, fireplace, deck, dock.

James Mackie – yea  
Dave Burton – yea  
Gary Stoughton – yea  
Suzanne Partridge - nay  
Donna Graham – nay

*Reading the article in the Haliburton Echo of May 8th regarding the dismissal of Chief Middleton I was disturbed by the allegations of misconduct concerning the Volunteer Fire Department, including reported incidents of bootlegging booze and of firefighters arriving at the scene of a fire under the influence of alcohol. It appears that the former Chief tried to deal with these issues by using surveillance cameras in a manner that was deemed improper.*



Does this seem somehow appropriate?

Great swimming - rustic log cottage offered at \$150.00 per day \$1000.00 per week  
please contact: [judystephens48@hotmail.com](mailto:judystephens48@hotmail.com) and/or [amoscan@hotmail.com](mailto:amoscan@hotmail.com)

PLEASE INFORM YOUR RENTERS of the importance of properly disposing of garbage at the Transfer Stations and of the rules for protecting our lake environment.

*This is purported to be the cause of his dismissal. It is worth noting that Fire Chief Middleton had suspended the present reeve Dave Burton and Jim Mackie, present Deputy Reeve from their volunteer fireman’s positions for rules infractions in November of 2004. Former chief Middleton has launched a million dollar lawsuit against the Municipality of Highlands East. Will we as taxpayers end up footing the bill for any eventual settlement? Not according to Reeve Burton who says that insur-*

*‘Allegations include incidents of bootlegging and of firefighters arriving at the scene of a fire under the influence of alcohol.*

*ance would cover any settlement by the Municipality of Highlands East. However Reeve Burton is being sued for libel personally by Mr Middleton and he (Mr Burton) is not protected by insurance. The larger question remains unanswered; is the Volunteer Fire Department being run properly and is it a service upon which people can rely?*

As is stated elsewhere in this newsletter, **bathing in the lake is not acceptable** even with biodegradable soaps. These products are only biodegradeable when the microbes in the soil can break them down!

# WILD LEEKS – THE BEST OF SPRING!

Where the wild leeks grow  
 SASHA CHAPMAN  
 Special from The Globe and Mail  
 May 5, 2007

The first time I visited Michael Stadlander at Eigensinn Farm near Collingwood, his 100-acre property was blanketed in snow. And yet the great chef was already talking about the wild leeks, also called ramps, that would soon be rising up through the forest floor. "I don't wait for the snow to melt," he said excitedly. "I know where they are, and push the snow aside."

Unlike most Canadians, Mr. Stadlander actually hopes for a slow, late thaw - if the leeks grow too

quickly, they can get bulby and fibrous. Wild leeks are literally Ontario's first taste of spring - they are the first edible shoots to appear in April and early



Caption describing picture or graphic.

May, long before local asparagus growers are even thinking about harvesting their spears. Which is one reason why people get so excited about this obscure allium. "It's the renewal of life after a long winter," Mr. Stadlander explained.

True to their name, wild leeks are not nearly as tame as their domesticated cousins, garlic and onion. They are pungent and grassy, and demand a starring role on the plate. The young green leaves can be used to wrap fish, the shoots sautéed with lamb. With age, their herbal taste grows more pronounced. The diehards, such as Adam Colquhoun of Oyster Boy,

eat them raw, straight from the ground. "I'm an addict," he explains. Because wild leeks take two years to mature, harvesting must be done carefully so they aren't picked out of existence - a real danger in Quebec where their culinary qualities are held in higher esteem. (Also wild leeks can sell for as much as \$15 a pound. In 1995 they earned the dubious honour of being the first officially 'vulnerable' species in that province.

Mr. You have to take them they don't tices fully divid-planting

*The diehards such as Adam Coloquon of OYSTER BOY eat them raw from the ground. "I'm an addict" he explains.*

Stadlander says "take them here and there to make sure disappear. He prac-'wildcrafting', caring bulbs and re-them to ensure their

survival.

*Here on Salerno Lake we have found many accessible patches of wild leeks. Like Mr Stadlander we take them in small quantities from each area. We've also experimented with transplanting them to encourage further growth.*

DR

## FIREWORKS ON THE JULY 1ST WEEKEND

**Canada Day Fireworks Celebration will be on the evening of Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> (Rain date**

**Sunday July1st) Look for the maps posted on your cottage road for more**

**information. Come celebrate Canada Day with your Lake community.**

Check us out online at  
[www.salernolake.ca](http://www.salernolake.ca)

## The Wintergreen Maple Syrup and Pancake Barn

is a wonderful asset to this part of the Haliburton Highlands. The buildings are beautiful, spacious and clean and their store offers a cornucopia of sauces, jams, jellies, syrups and saucers. La Sucriere Restaurant on the second floor is a rustic gem offering a menu of maple themed meals and treats.

Located on the west side of County Road 1 between Lochlin and Gelert, they have a full Calendar of events over the extended cottaging season from maple syrup time in March to the Christmas Social in December.. There are fresh fruit socials all summer long and they are also offering an intimate concert series with dinner and a live musical performance for only 30 dollars. Check out the lineup listed below!

June 9th, Faith Nolan  
June 23rd, Mr. Rick  
July 7th, The Lyin' McKenzie Kings  
July 21, Brian Blain with Zoe Chilco  
August 4th, Gail Ackroyd  
August 18th, Michael Pickett

To learn more about each performer, check out their websites or contact Tom and Diane Dawson, the proprietors of Wintergreen. They can be reached at 705 286 3202.

## REALTORS and the SDLCA

Recently some realtors have begun to donate money to Lake Associations when they sell a property on that Lake. While we are not in the business of selling advertising we do appreciate the support and moreover we want realtors to put potential buyers in touch with the SDLCA so that they can learn more about the lake and the kind of community we are trying to build and support. For instance, last year a few prospective buyers contacted me through the website to ask a few questions about Salerno Lake. For one family, wakeboarding was a big factor but on learning that the lake is as narrow as it is, they decided to look elsewhere.

As a measure of thanks to these realtors, we will post their business cards on the website and in the Salerno Lake Sentinel.

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(705) 457-2414  
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trilliumgroup@royallepage.ca  
www.haliburtoncountyrealestate.com

# REPORT FROM WRAFT (WATERFRONT RATEPAYERS FOR FAIR TAXATION)

REPORT TO WRAFT MEMBERS  
IT'S NOW OR NEVER

May, 2007

This is a follow-up to our April 2007 Report. Its five months till Election time.

We are now initiating, along with our CAPTR partners, a massive letter writing campaign. Activating your membership is the key.

We have redesigned our CAPTR website, [www.captr.org](http://www.captr.org). Go to it for instructions for emailing your MPP. Send a copy to the Finance Minister at [gsorbara.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:gsorbara.mpp@liberal.ola.org) and a copy to us at [captr@sympatico.ca](mailto:captr@sympatico.ca). If you want to send a real letter send it to Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, 7th floor, Frost Bldg South, 7 Queens Park Cres., Toronto M7A 1T7

Some folks have asked what they should say in their email or letter. Please reread the material we sent you in April. Basically tell your MPP and the Finance Minister that the Liberal plan for a four year assessment cycle and four year phase-in just doesn't cut it. It's purely a band-aid. Only a cap on assessment increases will deal with the volatility which is the fundamental problem with the present system.

We don't believe in form letters so personalize your letter.

\* Say how you have been hit with unmanageable tax increases.

\* Say that your income is not increasing at anywhere close to the rate of increase in your taxes. If you're retired mention that.

\* Say that you don't want to sell your property but may be forced to do so. Say that you are a second generation cottager and had hoped to leave the property to the kids but even if you can hang on, they won't be able to afford it.

\* Say that cottaging is going to only be available to the wealthy.

\* Say whatever fits your situation.

\* Finally say that both opposition parties have put forward proposals which would fix the volatility and the election is only a few months away. The Liberal government still has time to fix their band-aid scheme by adding a cap.

As mentioned in our April report, we will be phoning as many of you as possible in the next few weeks to see how we can assist you in activating your membership. Property tax reform is a critical issue on waterfront across Ontario. We need your help to get the system fixed.

We are also mailing this report to you and enclosing a poster which we encourage you to display at appropriate locations. Clear plastic protectors can be obtained at Staples for outside use. A sample is enclosed. Hang it with the closed end up. Put it up in obvious places, on the local bulletin board, at the marina or the general store

One final matter you can help us with. We need real life examples of people who have sold their waterfront properties because of high taxes and are suffi-

ciently upset that they are willing to talk about it. This would be a great assist in our effort to get the attention of both the media and the politicians. Please let us know if you can help in this search. If you have names and contact information, we can follow up and try to enlist their support.

Thanks for your help

Bob Topp, Executive Director



## SPRING FLOWERS OF SALERNO LAKE

The Spring Flowers of Salerno

One of the great delights about having a cottage on Salerno Lake is watching the approach of spring and all the new growth that happens on the forest floor in the early weeks before the leaves come out and take away the light from the lower reaches.

Of course Ontario's provincial flower the trillium is the most obvious bloomer but a special pleasure is the scattering of bur-

gundy flowers among the white. I don't know if these gorgeous trilliums are commonplace in

other regions of Ontario but I had never seen them until we came to Salerno.



Columbine

Over the first two weekends in May Barbara and I did a lot of walking through the forest, just scouting out the early arrivals. Luckily for us, the blackflies and mosquitoes were not out in numbers and the weather was warm and sunny. On this walk on May 7<sup>th</sup> we saw for the first time, the Trout Lily

– but by the time we returned on May 13<sup>th</sup> with a camera, they had all disappeared. Likewise the little white Dutchmen's Britches which were everywhere on the first visit but then completely gone to seed in just a few days. The flowers of spring are with us for such fleeting moments.

Some other favourites are Columbine, Hanging Bellwort and Violets, both purple and yellow.

*The flowers of spring are with us for such fleeting moments.*

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

PLEASE ATTEND THE Annual General Meeting of The Salerno Devils Lake Cottagers Association at 10 a.m. on August 4th at St. John's United Church Hall in Irondale. This is a forum in which we can raise our concerns. Be there... or don't complain to me..

DR

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS AND A SURVEY

~ It's Time for a Change ~  
by Heather Stuart MacLachlan

Summer is fast approaching and we have another season of great cottaging ahead of us. As always, the Environmental Committee is ramping up for the annual Environmental Newsletter to be delivered to your dock on the July long weekend. This year we've decided to kick off a five-year campaign targeted at evaluating and improving what we're putting in the lake via our drains. There is a lot of confusion about the topic of phosphate-free and biodegradable products out there. For example:

Did you know:

- Even though your soap and shampoo may say 'phosphate-free' they can still legally have a percentage of phosphate in them?

Or

- When your soap or shampoo says 'biodegradable' it means biodegradable in soil. The product has to pass through the soil for it to breakdown properly. Even then, it may take months to degrade. Ergo, washing with anything directly in the lake is still a very bad idea.

We'd like to assess how well we're doing as a community and measure our improvement over a five-year period. The results will be posted in subsequent newsletters and discussed at the AGMs. The first measure of how we're doing comes via an anonymous and voluntary survey. Please answer the five questions below and email your results to [hstuart@hotmail.com](mailto:hstuart@hotmail.com). The name of the sender will not be kept or tracked - I promise! Copies of this survey will also be circulated at the AGM, canoe race and in the newsletter itself. You can also give me your answers at these events if you prefer not to use the internet. The results will be compiled at the end of the season and reported on during the next year.

It is my belief with a little effort on everyone's part we can a) decrease the amount of nutrients we're inputting into Salerno, and b) track our improvements over the years.

Many thanks for all your continued support!!!

Email to: Heather (Stuart) MacLachlan At: [stuarthl@hotmail.com](mailto:stuarthl@hotmail.com)

## Environmental Survey

- #1. Does your cottage use any environmentally friendly products?
- #2. If your cottage does use environmentally friendly products, what types and how many?
- #3. What is your biggest barrier to using environmentally friendly products?
- #4. Do you use any of the following at the cottage:
  - dishwasher
  - washing machine
  - septic tile bed (not a holding tank)
  - lawn fertilizer
  - antibacterial soaps
  - bleach cleaners
- #5. Will you make an effort to help keep the lake healthy by choosing environmentally friendly products in the future?

To make it easier, just type the number and your answer in your response email.

Summer 2007

SALERNO (DEVIL'S) LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION  
REASONS TO JOIN US  
SDLCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

Belonging to the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) allows us to see and understand the broader picture. This group monitors government issues and acts as a lobbyist in order to preserve the rights and interests of seasonal landowners. It is also a valuable resource for your association executive and information acquired is, in turn, relayed to you.

Attending the Annual General Meeting keeps you informed allows you to be a part of the decision-making process and lets your voice be heard.

Participating in our social events, such as the annual canoe race and BBQ builds a sense of community.

Receiving and reading the Salerno Lake Sentinel, our SDLCA newsletter published in the fall, spring and summer allows you to stay informed.

The more members our association has, the more effective is our representation at Councils on matters of local concern.

Increase your property value & ensure long-term benefits for all by joining others in environmental initiatives such as shoreline naturalization projects.

Learn more about the local ecosystem and participate in the Environmental Committee: produces an annual newsletter focused on environmental lake issues

and works with cottagers to promote long-term aquatic health.



To become a member, please fill in the following and mail along with a cheque for \$30 to S. Thompson, 88 Maiden Lane, Milton ON L9T 2H4

Name :.....

Home Address :.....

City :.....

Postal Code :.....

Cottage Phone :.....

I would prefer to receive my newsletter at the following e-mail address:.....