

# Salerno Lake Sentinel

WWW.SALERNOLAKE.CA

FALL 2006

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President 2

White Lake Dam 2

The Summer in Review 3

Boys' Week-end 3

Canoe Race Results 4

Canoe Games Results 4

## Message from the President

In the two years that I've been President of the SDLCA I have had many occasions to speak with civil servants in the employ of the various levels of government, with agencies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment – even the two Municipalities which Salerno Lake straddles.

No, this little essay is not going to turn into a screed against the bureaucrats – I found most of these people to be intelligent, conscientious and motivated to do the right thing. After all they are responsible for enforcing various bylaws or regulations designed to ensure our safety or protect and preserve our natural heritage whether it be forests,

lakes or wildlife. However what I have learned is that they are for all intents and purposes, powerless to do anything. Oh they may have offices, phone lines and statutory power – but there is so little money and it seems even less political will on the part of governments to actually deliver the services they are legislated to provide.

Take for example the enforcement of our fishing laws. With the last budget, the Liberal government of Ontario reduced the number of full time MNR enforcement officers in the entire province to four. Yes, that is four people charged with monitoring the hunting and angling activities on thousands of lakes and rivers

and forests, covering an area larger than the continent of Europe. However after a vigorous campaign by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the number of officers was increased to the grand total of eight. These are not the kind of numbers that will deter poachers. Bears are still being slaughtered for their gall bladders. It seems to me that if it weren't for stupidity and greed none of these scofflaws would ever get caught. Rather this paltry force is a tacit admission that we as a society just don't care enough about our wildlife to afford any resources to its protection– and what a sad commentary on our priorities.

*...continued on page 2*

## White Lake Dam

The pictures of the White Lake Dam and the lake itself, which you see beside this article, were taken on Thanksgiving weekend. The photographs made their way to the SDLCA Executive and when they were forwarded to Heather (Stuart) MacLachlan, she promptly sent off a letter (page 2) to the Ministry of Natural Resources.



## Message from the President (cont'd)

Certainly when it comes to enforcing boating regulations the situation is no better. Has anyone seen the OPP launch a boat on our lake in the last ten years? In my opinion those who take comfort in thinking that the volumes of laws and regulations on the books will be effective in curbing reckless or anti-social behaviour, are deluding themselves. Watching the holiday weekend free-for-all on the water sometimes I marvel that we haven't yet had a fatality. How many people have actually bothered to obtain a Boating Licence? Why is it that there isn't a single statute limiting the size or horsepower of a vessel no matter how small the lake? There has been a Private Member's Bill in the Senate that would simply allow Municipalities the right to set limits for the operation of Personal Watercraft on lakes within their

boundaries. The Bill has died on the Order Roll three times, in part because the PWC industry has lobbied so vigorously against it. Whatever! If Parliament did pass the law, would the government enforce it? Remember the Wizard of Oz – all that fury and bluster but when Dorothy drew back the curtain, there was only a blustery little man pulling levers and twiddling knobs.

It's almost touching the way some people think that complaining to me about a problem will have some effect - I'm just one voice and despite my exalted office I have no authority whatsoever. Certainly it's easier to complain to me than to actively look for support within the system but as a citizen the only way to have a voice is to use it. Pay

attention to what is going on and if you feel that something is wrong, act on your feelings. Phone, send emails, write letters, do whatever it takes to try to mobilize those entrusted with the duties of enforcement. And don't just do it once because if you don't follow up on your enquiries, your complaint will almost certainly be lost or forgotten. This neglect is seldom malicious, but simply the result of over-worked civil servants and under-funded programs. So we must exercise our rights (and duties) as citizens in sufficient numbers to achieve results. I saw a bumper sticker the other day, which I thought expressed my sentiments very well. It said "Get Involved. The world is run by those who show up".

**"Watching the holiday weekend free-for-all on the water sometimes I marvel that we haven't yet had a fatality."**

## White Lake Dam (cont'd)

*"I am the Environmental Director for Salerno Lake and was sent these pictures today of White Lake which flows in Salerno Lake. Apparently the logs were removed from White Lake at some point before Thanksgiving and the photographs attached depict the current conditions of the White Lake creating these extreme conditions that have many of the local residents worried."*

*As a cottager on Salerno for the past 28 years, I can say that I have never seen White Lake like this before and am horrified about the aquatic and ecological implications. In 2001 I completed my thesis on the natural and anthropogenic phosphorus*

*loading for both Salerno and White lakes and have come to know them on a in-depth level. As an Environmental Scientist and Environmental Consultant, I believe these conditions are extremely high-risk for the local ecosystem and pose serious implications for the long-term health of the watershed. I can't imagine the extent of the effect this is having of the fish, biota and vegetative components of the lake.*

*I believe the logs need to be replaced asap in the White Lake dam so that the waters can build up and need your help to notify the appropriate people to get this done."*

Heather aptly and eloquently expressed our concern and she received a reply from a Mr. Doug Neal of Haliburton who is in charge of the logs at the White Lake dam. The logs were removed to facilitate repairs to the dam and he had been in contact with Roger Cunningham of the White Lake Cottagers Association. As of last Thursday one log has been replaced and the lake will remain at that level throughout the winter. The dam will be in need of further repairs next year so the process will be repeated.

# The Summer in Review

Many thanks to Frank Bartley for his excellent work in preparing the fireworks display that rocked the Lake this July 2<sup>nd</sup>. When the July 1<sup>st</sup> date was rained out, Frank took the initiative. Rather than hold off on the fireworks until the August long weekend as we had planned, he spread the word around the lake via a bullhorn on a boat - and on Sunday night, people gathered offshore and were treated to a spectacular display. Had Frank waited, the fireworks would have suffered from the prolonged exposure to humidity and the show would likely have failed. So thanks again Frank – and we're counting on your expertise for next year!

## Mea Culpa

In the last issue of the Salerno Sentinel I gave all the credit for the new boat launch to the Township of Minden Hills. I regret that I omitted to thank the Municipality of Highlands East because they were instrumental in this project, not only financially but also logistically. Rob Stuart said that without Highlands East it might not have been built in time for the season.

## Canoe Race and BBQ

As an Executive we had set ourselves a goal for 2006. We wanted to get 40 entrants in the Canoe Race – our numbers had been slipping over the last few years. This has been too special an event to allow it to fade away. We must have done something right because on the day we had 41 entrants including 9 kayaks. The weather was glorious and despite the aftermath of the tornado, everything was ready. Special thanks go out to Rob Stuart and his stalwart crew, John Leonard, Kim Field, and Tom and Michael Kott for cutting up the big pine that had fallen across our Children's Games area. You will find the final results of the race and the Children's Games posted within this newsletter. The barbeque went off very well and on the day, your Cottagers' Association broke even financially, which was our intention.

The Environmental Raffle was a great success and with the proceeds of

last year's draw we purchased a large number of seedlings that were distributed to the membership for free.

Among the prizes for next year's Environmental Draw will be a custom made candle holder such as you see illustrated in this picture. Tea lights fit into copper sleeves mounted in the tops of these weathered cedar trunks. These unique items are designed and made by SDLCA member Miro Iskic who is donating it to the Association. Many thanks Miro!



Next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SDLCA Canoe Race and we want to make it a very special event! There will be 9 categories consisting of Men's, Women's, Junior, Mixed, Open, Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak, Men's Seniors and Women's Seniors. The two new categories have been created due to popular demand and this race promises to be one for the ages. Don't miss it! Spread the word to your neighbours, especially any one who has not joined the SDLCA. It's the best way to meet the Salerno Lake community.

I would like to invite our membership to send us pictures of Canoe Races gone by. If you can scan them and send us the files, ([webmaster@salernolake.ca](mailto:webmaster@salernolake.ca)) we would like to create a special gallery on the website and feature some of them in the next newsletter. Don't forget to include as much information as possible for each shot; the names, the year etc. – and we'd certainly love to publish any reminiscences of Canoe Races past. If you don't have the ability to scan your pictures, send them to me anyway and I will have them scanned and return them to you. Send them by snail mail to Douglas Rodger, 16 Prince Rupert Avenue, Toronto, M6P 2A7. The deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

# Boys' Weekend

I've somehow managed to get through the middle years of my life without ever finding myself in one of those All Male Iron John Bondathons which featured naked men drumming in the woods - but I'm writing this on the day before I head north to partake in the latest installment

of that grand old custom of the cottager – The Boys' Weekend. This ritual has many manifestations some of which might be too scurrilous for the more delicate souls among us to contemplate. Rest assured that I'm not speaking of some booze-fueled debauch on a gross scale

but of a more contemplative, if not exactly sober visit to the hinterlands with like-minded friends of longstanding acquaintance. Nothing illegal or immoral but much that is certainly fattening. (The term 'boys' is a stretch for us but never mind.)

...continued on next page

# Boys' Weekend (cont'd)

I shall take this opportunity to enlighten those unfamiliar with the concept of a Boys' Weekend with some examples. For instance, a few years back one of my neighbours on the lake would get together with his pals, set up a drum kit, amplifiers and microphones then jam for a weekend – usually in September when there were fewer people on the lake. The music was enthusiastic if less than polished but this kind of loud rock and roll is to me, far less annoying than someone across the lake turning their stereo up to Full Distortion and leaving it to blare for hours on end, often long after they had passed out. The difference is the Garage Band Boys had to work hard and when the blisters on their

fingers finally burst, they'd shut down the amps and find other, quieter amusements.

Fishing seems to be another activity that can keep a group of men happily engaged for a few days at the cottage. I speak here of 'fishing' as opposed to 'catching'. In my experience, someone actually catching a fish greatly upsets the dynamic of an All-Male Weekend. Once the precedent has been set, the challenge for the other males becomes trying to meet or surpass the piscatorial conquests of the rest. Nothing good can come of this. It is far better to have the entire crew skunked. Then the time can be happily passed complaining about the paucity of action, changing bait and/or lures and in the end no one has to

feel bad or clean the fish that most of them won't eat anyway.

I did once go to something called a Gathering of Men. This took place in a very clean woodworking shop out in Mississauga. There were a dozen guys of my vintage gathered on the shop floor with an interloper, chosen from the assembled. It was ok, confessional and complaining, but I resisted the invitations to weekend workshops and group sessions. I'll take my male bonding experience with nice dark claret and a rack of ribs on the grill.

Got any favourite Boys' Weekend stories to share? (Printable preferably...) Write me at [elpresidente@salernolake.ca](mailto:elpresidente@salernolake.ca).

## CANOE RACE RESULT 2006

### JUNIORS (3 canoes)

Aaron Wilson & Cameron Woodard

**1:36:57**

### WOMENS (3 canoes)

Laura Mayes & Samantha Thompson

**1:23:23**

### SENIORS (4 canoes)

John Leonard & Rob Stuart

**1:13:05**

### MIXED (5 canoes)

Melissa & Brendan Rayburn

**1:14:30**

### MENS (11 canoes)

Eric Orschel & Bob Bayard

**1:05:59**

### OPEN (6 boats)

John Mansfield, April McCrum & Corey Witham

**1:16:50**

### KAYAK (9 boats)

Doug Rodger

**1:12:40**

**TOTAL BOATS: 41**

#### JUNIORS (3 canoes)

Aaron Wilson & Cameron Woodard	1:36:57
Jordan Akow & Luke McQuilkin	1:43:00
Alex Anderson & Andrew VanHoof	2:12:08

#### WOMENS (3 canoes)

Laura Mayes & Samantha Thompson	1:23:23
Kay Armatage & Janis Cole	1:29:53
Julie & Samantha Lock	1:37:41

#### SENIORS (4 canoes)

John Leonard & Rob Stuart	1:13:05
Ken Clark & Rick Witham	1:14:47
Chris Caswell & Ron Edding	1:22:07
Diane & John MacDonald	1:29:32

#### MIXED (5 canoes)

Melissa & Brendan Rayburn	1:14:30
Gillian Wagnell & Scott Woodard	1:17:56
Katie Dick & Scott Russell	1:21:08
Heather & John MacLachlan	1:28:31
Lynn Skillings & Jordan Samson	1:44:16

#### MENS (11 canoes)

Eric Orschel & Bob Bayard	1:05:59
Michael & Tom Kott	1:12:15
Jesse Boyer & Tim Millan	1:13:27
Shawn Silver & Mark Watson	1:16:40
Brian & Scott Kerr	1:17:01
Andrew & Peter Merryweather	1:17:37
Graham Clancy & Geoff Johnston	1:17:43
Kevin & Todd Mansfield	1:24:46
Scott Collins & Ryan Kumala	1:29:10
Rob McDonald & Craig Ortwein	1:29:50
David Cassin & Sam Kasman	1:50:12

#### OPEN (6 boats)

John Mansfield, April McCrum & Corey Witham	1:16:50
Peggy, Morgan & Roman Boehm	1:17:55
Melissa Courtney & Brian Hardy	1:24:40
Brooke & Maralyn Leonard & Rory Hayes	1:37:40
Heather & Rebecca Caswell & Joe Edding	1:53:52
Alex, Mike & Nick Schiller	2:06:10

#### KAYAK (9 boats)

Doug Rodger	1:12:40
Eric Brown	1:19:21
Kyle Woodard	1:20:10
Claudio Covelli	1:28:00
Ella Russell	1:30:24
Jaqueline Proud & Paul Morin	1:33:48
Mitchell & Troy Binnie	1:34:17
Rachel Bentley-Lauzon	1:34:30
Amy Morin	1:43:31

#### 2006 SDLCA CANOE RACE GAMES

<b>RUNNING</b>	3 & under	Robert Field
	4-6 years	Camden Conner
	7-9 years	Beau Binnie, Connor McQuilkin
	10-16 years	Paul Carlson, Luke McQuilkin
<b>3 LEGGED RACE</b>	7-9 years	Tyler & Sierra Orschell
	10-16 years	Cecilia & Gilda Schumacher
<b>SHOE KICK</b>	4-6 years	Michael Field
	7-9 years	Conner McQuilkin
	10-16 years	Paul Carlson
<b>BUBBLE BLOWING CONTEST</b>		Braden McCarthy
<b>ADULT SHOE KICK</b>	<b>LADIES</b>	Melissa Rayburn
	<b>MENS</b>	Scott Field
<b>BALLOON TOSS</b>		Mariah Witham & Keelie O'Keefe
<b>EGG TOSS</b>	<b>CHILD</b>	Keaton Proud & Dustin Skillings
<b>ADULT</b>		Todd Mansfield & Samantha Thompson
<b>HULA HOOP</b>		Rachel Bayard

PHOTO OF  
SALERNO LAKE  
SUBMITTED BY  
CHRISTINE  
STRACHAN

