



LAKE ROSSEAU NORTH ASSOCIATION
Box 245, Rosseau, ON P0C 1J0

Lake Rosseau North Association 2017 Winter Newsletter

YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With barely a week and a half to go, I am very late in composing my year-end greeting. It has been a year full of events; both challenges and wonderful experiences at Lake Rosseau North. A one day trip up, and back, from Toronto on Saturday the 16th, enabled me to take a few pictures of the Village blanketed in snow. The bitterness of the temperature did not permit me much time to compose or take pictures of many other interesting and charming images. One can see Rosseau Harbour already starting to freeze over! Change, not just seasonal, seems to be high on the radar and not all of it is welcome or as beautiful. I hope you will study the contents of this newsletter and find the time to reflect on what it is that we cherish so much, and now need to be vigilant and proactive in protecting.



THE LIPPA QUARRY

As previously pointed out at our AGM, the establishment of a quarry just east of the Village of Rosseau would result in astronomical trucking through the village. Needless to say this would be very disruptive and dangerous and apparently unnecessary from accounts which indicate there are sufficient operations like the proposed quarry in far less sensitive areas. Please read the letter below carefully from the president Scott May of the Skeleton Lake Cottagers' Organization (SLCO) for up-to-date information on how YOU can help.

STATUS UPDATE OF PROPOSED LIPPA PIT & QUARRY

A brief note to keep you informed on the status of the proposed Lippa pit and quarry:

As many of you are aware, SLCO and the "Stop Muskoka Pit" group have been working together to oppose a 200,000 tonne/year pit and quarry that Frank Lippa is proposing to develop at a site 1.7 km from Skeleton Lake. In June of this year, the Township of Muskoka Lakes Council voted unanimously to deny Mr. Lippa's rezoning application, in response to concerns raised about the impaired water quality, noise, and traffic that would result from such an operation. Mr. Lippa subsequently filed an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). In response, SLCO has retained external counsel (David Donnelly) and various experts to assist us in opposing Mr. Lippa's appeal.

Last week, we received some new information about the OMB Lippa appeal hearing. Specifically, a pre-hearing conference will be held on Wednesday, February 21. The purpose of this conference is to determine the issues, parties, and participants prior to the actual OMB hearing, which is expected to take place next summer. As David advises, a strong turnout from residents and cottagers who are opposed to the proposed quarry will be important at the pre-hearing conference. Thus, please mark Wednesday, February 21, 10:00 am at the Township of Muskoka Lakes Council Chambers in Port Carling on your calendar, and plan to attend if possible.

Fortunately, SLCO has sufficient funds on hand to meet the legal and expert costs it is incurring, up until the pre-hearing conference. However, substantial additional monies will be needed if we

are to mount a successful opposition at the subsequent OMB hearing. Our intention is to launch a significant fundraising effort in the New Year.

We will continue to keep you informed on this matter, and are confident of your ongoing support as we fight to maintain the pristine water, along with the peace and quiet, that are so central to our enjoyment of Skeleton Lake.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Scott May, President
Skeleton Lake Cottagers Organization
e: scott@skeletonlake.ca
c: 416 559 2839

ADVANCING THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In late August, your board of directors met at Rosseau Lake College, and under the tutelage of past president Paul White spent a valuable day in strategic planning. We examined our structure and how we may group our talent into subgroups to best address the needs of our membership and organization. As a result we now have assigned directors more specific areas of concentration in matters related to social activity, political concerns, environmental concerns, membership and communication. As we receive news relevant to our community we now have directors willing and ready to act and report to the board and ultimately our members. We sincerely thank Rosseau Lake College and the new director Dr. Robert Carreau for their generosity in providing seminar space. We also send a special welcome to Robert who has expressed an interest in our association and how we might work together on mutually beneficial ventures.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

It is with regret but best wishes and thanks to Cheryl Hollows that we announce the search for another Membership Secretary. Should any of you be interested in discussing the possibility of becoming our new membership secretary please contact me. Cheryl's duties revolve around receiving LRNA email and relaying it to board directors, transmitting bulk email to members, tracking statistics on member response and keeping our membership directory up to date. Cheryl also has attended meetings when possible to take minutes and enter them into our records. She has been responsible for compiling and mailing out our directories and notices to those who do not use email. Cheryl gathers in cheques and relays them to our treasurer and has managed our new e-transfer of funds for dues.

Cheryl...many many thanks for your excellent work. We fully understand that life can become too full and prioritizing is necessary. Our thanks for hanging on and willingness to train your successor.

IN CLOSING

I would like to extend thanks from your Board of Directors for your support this past year and for the faith you have shown in maintaining membership. We can assure you the coming year will be full of interesting events and developments. We have much to discuss, perhaps surrounding the Regatta, the Elections in 2018, perhaps Internet connectivity, socials, environmental and planning issues and anything you feel is relevant and of concern to our catchment area.

I would also like to personally extend my thanks to a talented and extremely hard working board for their contributions. It is through their efforts we have achieved what we have.

With best wishes to all for a healthy and happy 2018

Doug Gammage, Pres.

And your board of directors: Corinne Hagerman, Bernadette Davidson, Brenda Handyside, Ken Bodnar, David George, David Himelfarb, Brian Bonnick, Claude LeBlanc.



SAVE MUSKOKA.CA

If you have not been at the lake since Thanksgiving or seen this video you must watch it now. <https://youtu.be/kG7zZKwP190>

Legacy Developments which is the former Lakeside Lodge has apparently clear cut the property to the shoreline contrary to the Official Plan. The Township of Muskoka Lakes has proposed a change to their official plan which will give huge latitude to resorts to introduce condominium home development in hugely raised density right on lake shorelines.

The organization "Save Muskoka" has an excellent website www.savemuskoka.ca. If you have not seen this website or inexplicably not heard what is threatening our lakes in terms of misguided changes to the Official Plan in the Township of Muskoka Lakes, please visit this website NOW and plan how you will become involved in fighting off this terrible proposal. Individual names and letters and not group petitions, carry weight. Please participate as well as you can or have someone attend on your behalf.



MEMORIAL HALL AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Wonderful news from Dominique O'Brien at the Township of Seguin. "The Memorial Hall is at substantial completion! The contractor has done minor touch-ups to complete and a thorough clean up to do. The elevator company will need the first week or so of January to complete the installation but if all goes well we will be open and ready mid-January.

WIFI PATIO UPDATE

Until the Memorial Hall is complete our plans to get a community wifi patio up and running between the Memorial Hall and the Antique Shop will be on hold. It is my understanding there will be landscaping and other details put in place for the Hall's centennial celebration in 2020, so we may have to be patient. I will keep you informed as details are available.

UNVEILING OF PLAQUES

It was both exciting and gratifying to participate in the unveiling of a double sided plaque at Rosseau Harbour Park late last summer. The plaque is positioned near the children's playground and the parking area. This plaque commemorated LRNA's commitment to and successful bringing about the restoration of The Rosseau Shoal light house and its turning over to the Township of Seguin for perpetual care. The other side of the plaque commemorated the visit of the poet Pauline Johnston to Rosseau and her paddle up Shadow River and resultant poetry. We extend our congratulations to the Rosseau Historical Society and thank them and the Township of Seguin for their assistance in bringing about this joint venture.

WEB SITE

As part of the regrouping of directors with special interest and abilities, two directors have undertaken a revamping of our website. You may have noticed our website has been under a suspension recently. Soon we will be ready to unveil a much more user friendly and advanced web presence that we are sure you will want to add to your "favourites" list. We will be developing a special introductory letter to you in the new year discussing its functionality and how it will be an asset to our association.

MY RANT

Ok! You hear this from me at every communication! Come and get involved! We are always in need of names to call on when there is a little extra "lifting" needed. If you are willing to help with our socials, (a little decorating, or food preparation or food run, etc) maybe assist the membership secretary by running to the post office or printer, plan a kids function, help our membership drives, fundraise or help with silent auctions etc we would love to have your name and number. Our various subgroups may like to have satellite individuals who are in the community or available to add ideas and research. Also if you would be interested in serving on the board of directors or have a particular issue that is bothering you about our community please be in touch. I am always happy to hear through lrnamail@gmail.com, my personal email dgame@bell.net or my cell 416 689 7916.

