



WRAFT (Waterfront ratepayers after fair taxation)

Last year at our Annual General Meeting, our cottagers' association decided to join WRAFT - who are a coalition of concerned waterfront association in Ontario. WRAFT's mission is to achieve equity in waterfront property taxation. They work on behalf of various cottagers associations by attempting to halt any unfair shift of tax onto the waterfront, to find ways to mitigate rising property taxes and to fight for reform in the way property taxes are allocated.

What WRAFT does:

- assembles a team of experienced property tax reform advocates who will recommend specific mitigation strategies to the province
- persuades the Ontario government to restore fairness in property taxation
- monitors, studies and reports on property tax issues and distribution methods across Canada, North America and Europe
- keeps your association informed as progress is achieved
- educates the public on the need for property tax reform
- builds a strong and unified voice for reform

As the Provincial elections are coming up this fall, WRAFT is encouraging all its members to join in a massive letter writing campaign. Send a copy of your letter to the Finance Minister at gSORBARA.mpp@liberal.ola.org or Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, 7th Floor, Frost Bld. South, 7 Queens Park Cres., Toronto, ON M7A 1T7 and a copy to WRAFT at captr@sympatico.ca

WRAFT does not believe in form letters, and suggests including the following information in your letter:

1. How you have been hit with unmanageable tax increases.
2. That your income is not increasing at anywhere close to the rate of increase in your taxes. If you're retired mention that.
3. 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.
4. That cottaging is going to only be available to the wealthy.
5. Say whatever fits your situation.
6. 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.

Greetings From the Chair

With the return of cottage season we can again settle in to savour our paradise at Minnicock. Continuing enjoyment of this natural paradise depends to some extent on our individual awareness of how, "people," activities can impact the natural environment.

The 2007 Minnicock Cottager's Association Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday August 5th at Jim Hubbard's cottage, 2363 Minnicock Lake Rd., (E32.) A pot-luck lunch and social time is planned for 11:30 AM to be followed by the AGM at 1PM.

Please bring either a main course dish or dessert, to be shared. If each person brings their own plate, cutlery and cup/glass, we can reduce the needless waste of our resources. Oh yes, and a lawn chair too! Drinks (non alcoholic) will be provided. Come for the picnic; stay for the meeting. This is Your Association, and by attending, you may keep in touch with current Minnicock issues.

Appreciation to Jim and Diana for offering the use of their cottage!

Anyone wanting to have a topic included on the agenda may contact your current Chair Dan Denby at e-mail ohokay@sympatico.ca or telephone 905-986-1499.

Dan Denby

Current Chair (E11)

Lake Steward Report

This is a short report from Doug Stephen our Lake Steward: We test for phosphorus in the lake each May, in 2006 the reading was 11.4, in 2005 the reading was 24.6. A lower phosphorus reading is good news! Stormy lake has had readings in between 4.5 - 6 for the past three years. We still have a large growth of milfoil weed, but it is reducing the amount of algal growth in the lake. At our AGM in August, a more comprehensive report will be submitted.

Local History

The Haliburton Echo is pleased to announce the release of the historical non-fiction book "A Journey Through Glamorgan's Past" by Elva Bates. Longtime cottagers will remember Elva Bates as being the clerk-treasurer and reeve of Glamorgan Township. She has been exploring and writing about the history of the communities in Glamorgan Township such as the one that was along the Minnicock Lake Road (which included about 22 homes, a school and an orphanage) as well as other small communities in Glamorgan township. The book is available at Under Cover in Haliburton, and Dream Weaver in Wilberforce.



1. Cleared, manicured lots – lacks shade and privacy; loss of native plants leads to more erosion, runoff...and more work for you!	1. Prune trees rather than removing them; allow low-maintenance native trees and shrubs grow to reduce erosion and absorb runoff.
2. Runoff – flows over solid surfaces accelerating erosion; pollutants and excess silt degrade habitat for aquatic life.	2. Replace solid surfaces with porous materials where possible; redirect runoff into settling areas, away from the water's edge.
3. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides degrade water quality, are hazardous to your health and can be deadly for fish and other wildlife.	3. Mow high and let it lie" if you cut your grass at the cottage, leave it 8 cm/3 inches high to retain moisture, mulch clippings for fertilizer.
4. Lawns to the water's edge lack deep roots, which are required to stabilize the bank.	4. Start a buffer; leave some grass uncut along the water's edge; restore with deep rooting native plants.
5. Hardened shoreline – can deflect erosion downstream, eliminates "natural filtering" of pollutants and sediment, degrades habitat.	5. "Soften" you shoreline; improve erosion protection with native trees, shrubs, grasses and aquatic plants.
6. Artificial beaches require ongoing sand replacement, reduces water quality and degrades aquatic habitat.	6. Create a "dry land" beach above the high water mark; let imported sand erode away naturally and native plant to grow back.
7. Old 2-stroke engines dump 25-40% of fuel, un-combusted into the water and air.	7. Use a well-maintained electric motor, or a 2 or 4 stroke engine that meets or exceeds EPA 2006 guidelines.
8. Solid crib docks destroy aquatic habitats, alters currents and can deflect erosion downstream.	8. Remove solid docks – try a pipe, cantilever or floating dock and avoid using treated wood.
9. Malfunctioning septic systems allow phosphorus and bacteria to leach into adjacent waterways.	9. Replace and properly maintain your septic system – consult an expert.
10. Harmful household chemicals and cleaners can damage septic systems and degrade water quality.	10. Use environmentally friendly products or alternatives like baking soda and vinegar.

News Around the Lake:

Anderson: Congratulations to Murray and Margaret Anderson as they welcome two new grandchildren to the family. Evan Anderson Hjelholt was born on December 14th, 2006 to Betsy (Anderson) and Dan Hjelholt (a little brother for Benjamin), and Avril Jennie Hewlitt was born on February 11th, 2007 to Valerie (Anderson) and Ryan Hewlitt.

Stephen: Congratulations to Doug and Gill Stephen, as their son Colin was married to Keri Sullivan in a small ceremony amongst the mountains at Emerald Lake Lodge in Field B.C on June 23rd, 2007.

Important Dates

Minnicock Lake Ratepayers' Association Annual General Meeting: Sunday August 5th, 2007 at the Hubbard's cottage (Turtle Rock/E32/2363 Minnicock Lake Road). Please bring lawn chairs. A pot-luck lunch will be held at 11:30 am and the meeting will start at 1:00 pm.

Minnicock Lake East Backlands Residents Corporation (MLEBRC) Annual Meeting: Monday September 3rd, 2007 at 10:00 am - the meeting will be held at the Harrison cottage (E30/2328 Minnicock Lake Road). Residents of the East Road are urged to attend this important meeting, as an amendment to the constitution will be discussed. A meeting agenda will be forwarded via e-mail or Canada Post prior to the meeting.

2007 Office Holders

Chair
Dan Danby
(905) 986-1499
ohokay@sympatico.ca

Secretary
Karen DeGroot

Treasurer
Sandy Denby
(905) 986-1499
ohokay@sympatico.ca

Lake Steward
Doug Stephen
(705) 448-1411

www.minnicocklake.com

Please visit us on the web for more frequent updates and information.

Do You Have a Contribution For the Next Newsletter or the Website?

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact Sarah Milligan at milligan01@rogers.com or send your contribution to 940 Finley Ave, Ajax, Ontario, L1S 3V2. Home Telephone (905) 426-2620. www.minnicocklake.com

Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

At last year's AGM, there was a concern for the levels of phosphates in our lake. One of the side topics raised as a result, was the type of cleaning products that cottagers can use, that have less phosphates, and are biodegradable, non-toxic and septic safe. Nature Clean products meet all these standards, and are certified by the Canadian Government and offer many different varieties of household cleaning, laundry and personal care products. These products can be purchased at IGA in Haliburton. Go to www.naturecleanliving.com for more information.