

Spring 2007
Issue 2

Three Mile Lake Barnacle

Your "In-Depth" Lake News

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Keeping It **KLEEN**...Water Quality & Testing

Without a doubt, the single most important aspect of life at the lake is the lake itself. Not only is the water quality key to our enjoyment of our time at Three Mile Lake, but reductions in that quality lead directly to both a potential decrease in family safety and a loss in our investments.

For many years, your Lake Stewards have performed regular testing of water clarity, noted obvious changes in lake behaviour, and performed tests related to phosphorous levels. But with the sudden changes observed at our namesake lake, Three Mile Lake outside Bracebridge, the association became increasingly convinced that we needed to do more. To that end, the TMLCC has undertaken a much more formal program to monitor and report on water quality.

The goal is to Keep our Lake the Environmental Envy of the Neighbourhood (K.L.E.E.N.!). To kick this off, the directors and executive of TMLCC voted

last year to pay for much more thorough water testing on a more frequent basis. We have hired Maxxam Analytics out of Mississauga to perform 51 tests against samples from three different locations on the lake. The tests will be performed three times per year (spring / summer / fall). We will now have a way to observe lake quality trends and, hopefully, catch potential lake threats before it becomes too late.

It is clear that the biggest contributors to potential lake threats are the same people who care the most about lake quality...that would be 'us'. Septic systems that are being asked to do more than they were originally designed for; septic which have reached an age where they need to be upgraded or replaced; run-off due to clearing of vegetation at the shoreline; powerboat usage, etc. The good news? Although we may be contributing to threats, we also ultimately have control to limit those threats. Since it's all

about education, awareness, and offering alternatives, we will be putting a lot of our efforts to these areas as we roll out the "K.L.E.E.N. Program". Information on products (soaps, detergents, etc) which are proven environmentally safe; information on what you can do to ensure your septic system is up to standards; alternatives for building materials for structures at the water's edge; information on the impacts of removing natural vegetation, etc..

Your association is committed not only to the added enjoyment of life at the lake through organizing social events and keeping you up-to-date through our web site and newsletters; we are committed to helping protect your investment. When it comes to water quality, all we can do is report the news and offer education and awareness. Each of us needs to lend a hand in ensuring that Three Mile Lake remains a desirable and 'KLEEN' place to be!

Email: 3milelake@cogeco.ca

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Extreme Cottaging...

Ever wonder why you end up with new squeaks and creaks in your cottage each spring? Consider the extreme temperature changes your cottage endures. The lowest temperature recorded at Three Mile Lake this winter was -38.6 C. And in an 8-day period in March, the temperature went from a low of -30.8 C on March 6 to a high of +9.8 C on March 14!

Would you like ice with that?

“Our Community Works” is a fundraising campaign to raise money for the arena in Burk’s Falls. Thanks to great community involvement (including help from the TMLCC) the OCV reached its goal. The arena upgrades will be complete by July 1, 2007...meaning summer ice is now available!

See the ‘Cottage Links’ page on the www.3milelake.org web site for more info.

K.L.E.E.N. Test Results – Spring 2007

As mentioned in the ‘Keeping it KLEEN...’ article on Page 1, the TMLCC started more formal water quality testing this year. Our first set of results, for Spring 2007, are now in.

We have chosen three separate locations for our testing – Bear Trap Bay on the northeast side, the Beaver Dam on the northwest corner, and Blueberry Island on the southwest side of the lake. Testing includes *inorganics* (including phosphorous levels); *alkalinity and saturation*; and *metals*. A total of 51 items are measured, and compared against the *Ontario Provincial Water*

Quality Objectives by Maxxam Analytics of Mississauga.

Of our total of 153 sample analyses (51 tests, 3 locations) from Spring 2007, only 5 results were of some concern. At this point, it is not clear if this indicates a trend or is mainly due to natural phenomenon such as spring run-off. Ultimately, however, given the importance of our lake quality, we feel that we must be within provincial guidelines in every sample, every location, on every test result.

Given that this was our first thorough test, we will await the results of the

Summer 2007 analysis prior to posting any results. Moving forward, all test results (with explanations) will be posted on our web site as they become available.

Our special thanks to our Lake Stewards, Steve Foster and Tim Taylor for organizing these tests, and to Arnie Pundsack who is helping lead our education and awareness work with the K.L.E.E.N. Program.

More information will be presented at the July 1 General Meeting.

Annual Picnic and Sailing Race – Saturday, August 4, 2007

We’re pleased to announce that Sharon Sheils and her army of volunteers will again organize the Picnic for the long August weekend (Saturday, August 4, 2007). Games, races, BBQ and, of course, the traditional East Versus West Tug-O’-War will be part of the festivities. Volunteers make this event a success...please help Sharon and her team by assisting for short periods on Picnic Day. She can be reached at

705-382-2736 or 705-787-0861, or email sasm@vianet.ca. We’ve had great weather and excellent turnouts for the last 2 years...we’re hoping for more of the same in ’07!

Another Three Mile Lake tradition on the August long weekend is the Annual Around the Islands Sailing Race. Gord Isbister will once again be organizing this year’s race. Please call Gord at 705-382-5325 or send him

an email at betgor@vianet.ca if you would like to take part...we’ll hope for a little more wind this year!

Come out and make this year another successful one!

Mail Bonding...

For those who have a post office box in Katrine, please note that the Post Office has moved to Katrine Marine. The Katrine Store has unfortunately closed, meaning the Post Office had to move.

We can take a hit...

For the one year period between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007, the Three Mile Lake web site had almost 11,000 'hits'. This is an increase of about 2,000 over the same period last year. Let us know what we can add to keep you coming back ...

The Only Fair-way: 2007 Three Mile Golf Tournament

After swimming, picnicking and sailing on Saturday, August 4, join us for the 2007 Golf Tournament held at the Katrine Golf Club. Tee-off time is tentatively set for 8:30am

on Sunday, August 5, 2007. This event has been a huge success, and will once again be organized by Lori Kyle and Wendy Teufel. Those interested should contact

Lori or Wendy @ 705-382-5344. Come out and show us how much drive you really have.

Count On Us: TMLCC and Municipal Elections...

"Non-permanent" (seasonal) residents outnumber permanent residents by a factor of more than 2:1 in Armour Township. Obviously, lake residents make a huge contribution to the local tax base. For this reason, it is key that the voice of our TMLCC membership is heard by local government.

During the November 2006 Municipal Elections, your TMLCC organized one of only two All-Candidates meetings prior to the election. All but one of the candidates took part, and an audience of

over 100 joined us on Thanksgiving weekend at the Burk's Falls Arena. This effort to educate our fellow taxpayers and give TMLCC a voice was organized completely by volunteers of the TMLCC executive and directorship.

TMLCC has continually backed the right of seasonal residents to vote by mail. It is imperative that voters understand the platforms of local candidates, and that they take advantage of opportunities to learn more about their positions on issues which affect

them most. Mail-in voting numbers were still somewhat disappointing in November's election, but the opportunity to learn and to vote were certainly equal for all residents. Your new Reeve for Armour Township is Bob MacPhail. Councillors include Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Marty Corcoran, and Patrick Hayes. Armour Council meets bi-weekly on Tuesday evenings. Links to the Armour Township web site are available through www.3milelake.org.

Looking For A Hot Date This Summer? Try These!

The Three Mile Lake web site now includes an "Event Calendar" which is updated each season. Keep coming back to www.3milelake.org for the latest updates and any last-minute changes.

Sunday, July 1, 2007 @10:00am... TMLCC Annual General Meeting in Katrine

Saturday, August 4, 2007... TMLCC Annual Picnic, Regatta and Sailboat Race

Sunday, August 5, 2007... Three Mile Lake Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday/Monday September 2/3... Ryerson/Burk's Falls Agricultural Society Annual Fall Fair

Rocks and Hard Places: Lake Markers

Thanks to our "Rock Group" volunteers, each year the shallow areas and rocky locations on the Lake are marked for boating safety. The blue barrel markers are typically put out in May or June and removed in October. Boaters should stay well away from these locations as they mark locations where rocks are

just below the surface.

It is important to note that **not all shoals and rocks are necessarily marked.**

We do the best we can, but conditions on the Lake change, and the barrels occasionally break away from their moorings. If you notice a stray blue barrel, please put it on your dock

or shoreline and give Tim a call at 705-382-5752 so that he can collect and re-position the marker.

Also note that Spring is a prime time for surprising new hazards in the lake. This spring there were a number of trees, logs, rafts and dock pieces observed floating in the lake...Be careful out there!

Don't forget...

TMLCC Annual Meeting:

**Sunday, July 1
@ 10:00am at
the Katrine
Community
Centre...**

**The Lake Water
Quality Will Be
A Key Topic...**

Web of Intrigue: Updates From The Three Mile Web Site

The Three Mile Lake Community Club web site (www.3milelake.org) has been up and running since October of 2004. The site has been very successful in its goal of keeping TMLCC members up to date with happenings in and around the Lake. The average 'hit' rate to the site has been roughly 30 per day consistently throughout the year.

Stories on the site are added or updated on a weekly or bi-weekly basis (as time permits). This past winter, we added a new 'Lost & Found' section, as well as a seasonal calendar of events, and a local 'weather camera', on-line from Sundridge. Shortly, we plan to increase the number of local business ads in an effort to both

alleviate some of our costs and provide information on local business services to our members.

We're always welcome to new ideas for the web site, so please feel free to pass them along...

For any questions or suggestions for either the www.3milelake.org web site or the Three Mile Lake Barnacle Newsletter, please contact Rod Ward at Rod.Ward@cogeco.ca or 705-382-1440.

The current list of TMLCC Directors and Executive, as of June 2007, is as follows. New or renewing directorship will be determined at the Annual General Meeting on July 1.

Directors:

Rod Ward (President)
Gary Hollo (Vice-President)
Barb Leonard (Treasurer)
Arlene Vujacic (Secretary)
Ron West (Past President)

Gord Isbister, Jack Lesser, Wilf Schneider, Tim Taylor,
Sharon Sheils, Gary McFarlane, John Barnett, Albert
Bollenbach, Arnie Pundsack, Steve Foster, Doug
Langdon, Shelley Johnson, Gord Middleton, Denise
Minns, Mike Rainey, Theresa Kyi-Ward

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