

# News & Views 2012

SPRING UPDATE

www.shadowlakes.on.ca

## President's Message

Hello again and welcome back to the land of water, sun and fun. Your association executive has been active over the winter on a number of fronts and I hope you will find this edition of News and Views to be informative and interesting

Last year we experienced what could be considered "normal" water levels. A look at the flow rate data at Norland during the month of June bears out the fact that Parks Canada (the TSW) made an excellent effort in maintaining a minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second at Norland during the critical conservation period. This year, due to the mild winter, light snow pack and dry spring the TSW has serious challenges in balancing the needs of all stakeholders in the watershed which may affect us. Please see the communication from Parks Canada in this newsletter.

We have made some changes to our lake marker program including formalizing the operating plan with our contractor, setting service level targets for the replacement and correction of missing or shifted markers and have decided after last year's pilot project to replace all the old Styrofoam markers with the new spherical moulded plastic models. Thanks again to Paul South and Home hardware in Coby for helping us source the buoys at cost.

Please see the article in this newsletter that provides more detail on the plan, the response time and the process that you can expect when reporting a marker problem. Also you may have noticed that in response to the warm spring, the markers were put out earlier this year. In the future our target will be May 1 (versus the May 24<sup>th</sup> weekend) with the exact date to be determined in April each year based on conditions at the time.

Events this year include the Fresh water summit in June that your association continues to sponsor, and the always popular Childrens' Fishing derby which is a huge highlight for the children and this year will be celebrating its 20 year anniversary. Our thanks go out to the many volunteers and the Peneycad family for hosting the event. More detail regarding these events is enclosed.

We are in the process of updating our website. A committee made up of Paul Bassett, Joe Harnum and Mark Allan is overseeing the project which will offer a modernized look and feel and many new useful features. Please see the article in this newsletter by Paul Bassett.

The Shadow Lakes Association (SLA) has also joined the committee of council (a precursor to forming a business improvement area) for the Coboconk/Norland area. Although the SLA is not a business as such we believe that supporting this initiative is a positive action for the economic health of the community and will further integrate our membership into the greater community at large. More on this topic can also be found in the body of the newsletter.

Lastly, regarding initiatives, we will be participating in the 2012 Kawartha Lakes Stewards association's water quality testing program. Dave Parsons is our representative to this organization and the results of last year's program can be found at the KLSA website which is [www.klsa.wordpress.com](http://www.klsa.wordpress.com).

This year's Annual General meeting will be held on Saturday June 30 at the Coboconk Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion with coffee served at 8:30 AM and the formal meeting starting at 9:00 AM. I encourage you to come to the meeting to become more aware of the association's activities. Your participation and feedback will be welcomed. Mayor Ric McGee as well as Ward 2 Councilor Emmett Yeo will address the meeting. At time of writing we also are planning to have a representative of the OPP Marine unit address the meeting regarding boating safety and their plans for patrolling Shadow Lake in 2012.

I am pleased to announce that in 2011 (fiscal year 2012) paid memberships were maintained at 433. However due to rising costs and the many initiatives underway we experienced an operating deficit. Fortunately our high rate of membership participation (almost 70% of residents) has allowed us to keep membership dues at \$20 per year for many years. The association continues to operate on a sound financial footing however an agenda item at this year's AGM will include a discussion regarding a possible increase in 2013. Included in this newsletter is a summary of the benefits of membership. If you

## Shadow Lakes Association Inc. Membership Renewal/Application

2012 MEMBERSHIP FEE:	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2012 & 2013 MEMBERSHIP FEE:	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
2011 LATE MEMBERSHIP FEE:	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Phone: (705) \_\_\_\_\_ Road: \_\_\_\_\_ Green 911#: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (please print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with cheque to: Mark Allan, SLA, 73 Shadow Lake Rd 14, Coboconk, K0M1K0, or drop it off in the Association box at Souter's Variety Store in Coboconk. Thank you for your support!

**SLA Inc.  
Receipt for  
2012 Dues**

A payment of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

made on date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

(Clip this stub as  
a reminder of  
your payment)

are not currently a member please give some thought to joining and help us continue to deliver value to our lake community.  
 We thank all our members for your continued support and also thank the many local businesses that sponsor the association and our events. Please reciprocate by sourcing goods and services locally from our sponsors.

Take the time to read the newsletter and fill out the enclosed subscription form. Dues can be mailed in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope, dropped off at Souter's variety in Coboconk or given to your road monitor.

We thank you again for your support in helping us with our goal of protecting our land, lakes and river system so we may all continue to enjoy what we are so lucky to have, now and into the future.

The executive team wishes you, your family and friends a safe, enjoyable and happy summer on Shadow Lake.

Phil Taylor - President

**Annual General Meeting  
 Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>  
 8:30 a.m. coffee, 9:00 a.m. start  
 Royal Canadian Legion , Coboconk**

The Legion Hall is west of the intersection of Hwy 48 and Hwy 35. Ample parking is available.  
 Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Coby Food Bank.

Don't forget to dress up your boat for the Lighted Boat parade.  
 Ask for more details at the AGM.

**Shadow Lakes Association Inc.  
 Presents  
 The Mo Park 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Children's Rock Bass and  
 Sunfish Fishing Derby**

**Saturday, July 21, 2012.  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 Rain Day  
 Sunday, July 22, 2012**

**Alf Peneycad is seeking donations of prizes.**

Please contact him at  
 705-454-3486  
 or E-Mail him at

[Namesalfie@hotmail.com](mailto:Namesalfie@hotmail.com)

Refer to the enclosed Derby Pamphlet for the rules  
 and register early.

**Please support our sponsors  
 And shop locally!**

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## **Coboconk, Norland and Area Committee of Council** –Paul South

New in 2012, Coboconk, Norland and area businesses have formed the Coboconk, Norland and Area Committee of Council. With the help of the City of Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Department, the 118 members already have one project well underway and are looking at future projects to undertake.

The group began meeting monthly at the beginning of the year and interest has exploded throughout the communities. The first project is a Local Business and Community Directory which will include information on local businesses, churches, service groups and the surrounding lake associations. This directory will come in handy next time you're looking for a handyman, retail outlets, church contact info or trying to decide which local service group to join!

A sub-committee has been formed to develop and prioritize ideas for the group to tackle next. The group is also investigating the development of a website to keep accessible and to keep the community informed.

The next meeting we are looking forward to an information session with City of Kawartha Lakes Development Services Staff. Great to see so many local business people and services working together for the betterment of our communities!

## **Spring 2012 Conditions; Shadow Lake**

*Parks Canada*

Winter/spring 2012 has been very dry. The snowpack did not contain the normal moisture content, nor did the typical "spring showers" arrive. Parks Canada's staff recognized the situation early and took steps to catch water in the reservoirs and conserve that water for the coming summer season. However, with below normal precipitation, the typical spring run-off did not occur this year. The Gull River, including Shadow Lake, experienced low water levels throughout March, April and most of May.

Parks Canada used a strategy of water conservation through the spring in order to retain an adequate volume of water in the Haliburton reservoirs to meet upcoming system-wide needs. In the lead up to the May 24<sup>th</sup> weekend the need for water for the system became evident and a decision was made to draw water from the Haliburton reservoirs. With this action the flow through the Norland Dam increased significantly and as a consequence, the levels in Shadow Lake rose.

Typically Parks Canada requires water for the system in the heat of the summer, usually beginning in late June or July. Forecasts for 2012 indicate hot, dry weather will continue. If this forecast holds true, we can anticipate stresses on the TSW watersheds over the weeks and months ahead, which may bring with it periods of low water. The situation being experienced on the TSW is not unique – low water reports are being issued over a wide geographic area.

Parks Canada manages water on a system-wide basis to meet a broad range of stakeholder needs for water including recreation, municipal water supply, flood mitigation and fisheries management. On a daily basis, water control staff monitors precipitation, water levels and flow rates, and uses this information to make decisions on dam adjustments. To communicate more effectively with the public, Parks Canada has implemented a water management website at [www.parkscanada.ca/trent](http://www.parkscanada.ca/trent) that provides ongoing updated data for all stakeholders.

For more information:

General Inquiries  
Trent-Severn Waterway  
[Ont.Trentsevern@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Ont.Trentsevern@pc.gc.ca)  
705-750-4900  
And visit <http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/ne/neA2.aspx>

### **What is a flow through lake?**

The term *flow-through* is used to describe a body of water whose levels are dependent on water flowing from an upstream lake. When flows into the lake are high, levels rise; when flows into the lake are low, levels decline. Located between the Haliburton Lakes and the Kawartha Lakes, Shadow Lake, as an example, is a flow-through lake with no dam immediately downstream to regulate water flow out of the lake. The dam at Coboconk does not have any effect on the water level on Shadow Lake.

## **See You At the Movies** – Mark Allan

We have in Kinmount one of the most unique movies theatres in the world, Highlands Cinemas. It is not only a 5 Plex theatre, playing the best of first-run movies, and housing an amazing 4,000 sq. ft. movie museum. This complex has entertained us for 33 years.

This treasure may soon be gone. Threat of closure looms from film companies' plans to cease production of movies in 35mm format at the end of summer 2012, thus producing movies in digital format only. The cost to convert is in excess of \$60,000 per screen, and with an annual attendance of 55,000 patrons, owner, Keith Stata, does not know if he can afford the upgrade. Keith will declare his intentions following results of his 2012 season.

We cannot afford to have this theatre die. We, the community of Shadow Lakes can help by attending Highlands Cinema to support this one-of-a-kind creation that we have grown to enjoy over the years. Please go to the movies this summer.

You can find the movie schedule at [www.highlandscinemas.com](http://www.highlandscinemas.com) or call 705 488-2107

## Our Website is getting a Makeover! – Paul Bassett

You should already be noticing changes in the look and feel of [www.shadowlakes.on.ca](http://www.shadowlakes.on.ca). Your executive is taking incremental steps to add ever more highly-useful, timely information about what is happening in and around our lakes and rivers. For example, our site will soon link to real-time information from websites such as water levels and water quality, the Trent Severn Waterway, lake stewardship, conservation measures, and much more. And just click on the News/Newsletter tabs to read any of the more recent newsletters, or on the News/Minutes tabs to read our (archived) annual general meeting minutes.

Being a member of the Shadow Lakes Association just got even more valuable: Provide your email address to your executive and we will send you a user-name and login that will give you access to members-only forums, including by next year the ability to see our marker map and alert us to marker problems, or any other issue with which your executive may be able to help.

One website feature we wanted, but found the cost to be prohibitive, is to enable you to join or renew your membership online. So dues must continue to be mailed or brought to the annual general meeting or dropped off at Souters Variety store in Coboconk, at least for now. Speaking of which, the annual meeting will be a good opportunity to tell us what you like and dislike about our evolving website.

## 2012 – Year of the Good Neighbor – Ian Forster

At our Executive Meeting on August 26, 2011, we passed a motion ‘to dedicate 2012 to raising awareness about the need to be more neighborly, both on the water and on the shore, thereby increasing our collective enjoyment.’

In our Last Newsletter of 2011, I wrote an article that made some observations of some of the behaviour, occurring on our lakes that people, including myself, had complained about. I asked, in that article, for some feedback from our Members and the feedback that I received was overwhelmingly in agreement with the observations that were made and I received some suggestions on how to help solve the issues. I have heard some second hand negative feedback, but with no suggestions on what to do about the situations.

The Shadow Lakes Associations’ Mission Statement is as follows “*The Shadow Lakes Association Inc. is dedicated to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we today are enjoying.*” We are the only Organization that is solely dedicated to the interests of our Members with respect to our Lakes. Other organizations such as the City of Kawartha Lakes By-law Enforcement, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the OPP are available to advise about and enforce behaviour of the users of our Lakes. We have been receiving more complaints, this year, about behaviour that is negatively impacting the enjoyment of

some of our Members homes and cottages. We have discussed this with some of the other organizations including the OPP and the feeling is that if there is some way that the Association can help to find solutions to these problems within a framework agreed upon by our Members, that this would be the best way to proceed.

Some suggestions that have come forward are a Wall of Shame that is put up on the Website or a Neighborhood Watch Program which would notify Property Owners of their transgressions.

Your Executive has no desire to become the policemen of the Lake, or the neighborhood busy bodies. We are just volunteers that want to be able to enjoy the Lake experience the same as everyone else. We also do not want to have a constant police presence on the Lakes.

We are asking that our Members come forward with suggestions on how to best deal with the people that reside and/or visit our Lakes and don’t seem to realize that some of their actions have a negative effect on the ability of rest of us to enjoy our time at the lake. We are going to initiate a discussion about this at our AGM on June 30, 2012 so that we can develop a strategy to ensure that everyone enjoys all the benefits that coming to the Shadow Lakes System provides. We have also asked that the OPP attend the AGM and answer questions on what our options could entail.

## Response procedure for missing or shifted markers – Phil Taylor

The Shadow Lakes Association has two primary goals related to our annual marker program.

They are:

1. to improve the safety of boating activities
2. to reduce the potential of damage to our members’ watercraft from underwater hazards.

The program scope includes coverage of the entire Lake and river system from the mill pond in Coboconk upstream to the base of the dam in Norland.

The marker program has been in operation continuously since the founding of the association and is a primary service provided to our members and is the association’s single largest annual operating expense.

The association provides this service gratuitously and without any warranty or representation as to the accuracy of marker location, completeness of marker coverage, or suitability of channel depth.

We now have a formal agreement with our contractor that includes service level targets related to reporting and correcting missing or shifted markers.

The service level targets are:

**Acknowledgement of report - within 24 hours**

**Replacement or repositioning of marker – within 72 hours**

All missing or shifted markers should be reported either by e-mail or voicemail to:

**Onager Solutions Inc. (Mike Janke)**

**e-mail:** [mike@onager.ca](mailto:mike@onager.ca)

**telephone:** 705-344-3995

Please do **not** call the Janke home on Shadow Lake as this may result in a delay in responding to the report.

The report will be acknowledged by Onager within 24 hours and the marker problem will be addressed within 72 hours weather or other conditions permitting. Please provide an explicit description of the location and colour of marker in question including the closest road name if possible. Please provide a call back number in the event that Onager requires more information in order to identify the marker in question.

The association is currently developing maps of the entire system that will be posted on the website. The maps will show all approved markers with marker numbers assigned to them. This will make the process of identifying the problem marker much easier and help improve response times. The web based map will be available in 2013.

Please note that any requests for new markers should be made by e-mail directly to the association at [info@shadowlakes.on.ca](mailto:info@shadowlakes.on.ca) and not to the contractor. Also note that markers are generally not placed within 15 metres of the shore unless they are in a narrow main channel or in a high traffic area.

## **Shadow Lakes Association – Benefits of membership** - Phil Taylor

*“The Shadow Lakes Association Inc. is dedicated to the care and protection of our land, lakes and river system so that future generations will enjoy what we today are enjoying.”*

For an annual fee of \$20 per cottage or home, members receive the following benefits:

- **Lake Markers** – The association purchases, places and maintains the green and red channel markers as well as the yellow hazard markers that help boaters navigate through our rivers and lakes and avoid both property damage to their boats and possible personal injury
- **Annual childrens’ fishing derby** – The association with sponsorship from many local businesses holds a Rock bass and sunfish fishing derby annually in mid-July. The event is open to children and grandchildren up to the age of 15 and is open to paid up members only. All children receive a prize regardless of the number of fish caught. This event has created lifelong memories for hundreds of children of Shadow Lake members.
- **High water alert program** – The association maintains a list of e-mail addresses of paid up members who wish to subscribe to this service. Two

volunteer directors who are permanent lake residents monitor lake levels early and late in the season when many members are not present, to notify them of extreme conditions that could result in damage to docks or shoreline or possible loss of property.

- **Spring and fall newsletter** – The association publishes a newsletter entitled “News and Views” in late May/early June and again in late August to inform members of events and issues of interest ranging from association initiatives such as interaction with the Trent Severn Waterway regarding water management to dates and registration for the fishing derby. In municipal election years a third newsletter is published to help our members make informed voting decisions.
- **Water quality testing program** – As part of a comprehensive program in conjunction with the Kawartha Lakes stewards association e-coli testing is conducted from Canada day through to early October on both Shadow and Silver Lakes. Year to date results are published in the fall newsletter and are available on the website. E-coli testing measures bacteria presence and is intended to track suitability for swimming.
- **Liaison with Parks Canada watershed management authority** - The association maintains a water management committee who regularly communicates and meets with the managers of the Trent Severn waterway on the subject of Shadow Lake water management and lake levels.
- **Annual General meeting** – The association holds an annual meeting open to all members to discuss items of common interest and concern such as land use planning, water levels, boating safety, etc. Guest speakers including the mayor, and our ward 2 councillor attend each year and others such as the MNR and EMS are invited by the association.
- **Website** – The association maintains a website ([www.shadowlakes.on.ca](http://www.shadowlakes.on.ca)) as a means of disseminating information about the Shadow Lakes to our members and the public at large. The site also includes a section to post lost items or any notice a member may wish to broadcast to the membership at large.
- **Community relations** – The association values its relationship with the surrounding communities particularly Coboconk and Norland. Donations and sponsorships in the past have included sponsorship support for the annual Fresh water summit event, contribution toward a “jaws of life” for the fire department, support for the food bank and coverage of the Norland horticultural society events in our newsletter. Community needs are identified at each

association directors' meeting and funds are regularly released to support worthy community causes.

- **Government relations** – The association endeavours to maintain relationships with all levels of government from the municipal to the federal level. At the present time both the mayor of the city of Kawartha Lakes and our ward 2 councillor are ex officio directors of the association and regularly attend our board meetings. At the federal level, one of our directors who is a professional engineer has been appointed to a Parks Canada water management committee to help ensure that Trent Severn waterway management practices take into account the needs of the Shadow Lakes.
- **Membership in the Federation of Ontario Cottagers associations (FOCA)**- The Shadow Lakes Association is a member of FOCA which represents Ontario cottagers at senior levels of government on many issues such as taxation of waterfront properties and planning legislation that can affect waterfront property owners.
- **Docks in Coboconk** – The association in cooperation with the Coboconk businessmen and the municipality provide the docks that make it possible to boat down

the Gull river and have easy walking access to the businesses in town.

### Events This Summer

**June 16 & 17, 2012** - 3rd Annual Canada's Freshwater Summit. Located in Coboconk on beautiful Balsam Lake

**August 5, 2012** - Annual Duck Derby in support of the United Way and Coboconk Lions. Please call 705-454-1007

### The Last Word

Many thanks to Joe Harnum for all his hard work last year producing your newsletters. All of the directors of The Shadow Lakes Association stepped up admirably to fill in the gap of my absence while I focused on personal challenges in 2011.

Congratulations to Fred Post on his catch and release below.

**Have a Safe and Happy Summer! Wear your life jacket!**

Don van Wyngaarden, Editor 705-454-3319  
Don@planningforyourwealth.ca



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**Shadow Lakes Association Inc.**

**Extreme Water Level Alert**

I am a member in good standing with the Shadow Lakes Association and would like to be notified, if you can, at the e-mail address below in the case of an extreme high water level occurring in the Shadow Lakes System.

I understand that this is a volunteer courtesy service for members in good standing and there is no extra charge involved. I acknowledge that the Association provides the information gratuitously and without any warranty or representation as to the accuracy and timeliness of the information. As a condition of receiving the information I agree not to seek any remedy whatsoever from the Association, any members or officers of the Association or against anyone who maybe seek such remedy against the Association, its members or officers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Green 911#: \_\_\_\_\_ Road: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_