



FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER

An outstanding summer season is coming to an end and leading into what promises to be a warm and hopefully extended fall season. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents who volunteered their time and helped with the running of amenities and organizing of events.

Thank-you:

A big thanks to all the residents on Twin Lake who worked so hard on the removal of the floating algae this spring and to Shane O'Neill, Rob Koktan, Ed Lister, Harold McKeown, Joe and Maureen Funai for their help this year with the NutraFX algal treatments in their ponds. Many thanks to Andrew Wilson and his family for organizing this year's tennis lessons – it was a great success once again. A big thank you to the Meister family as well as Chris and Drew Pearson and Becky Ng for their efforts to get the pool open and operational this year. The Meister family enjoyed a short stay in Sunset Lakes and Steve Baumann and his family have kindly agreed to take over for the 2013 season. Thanks to Judy and Dan Anderson for hosting Canada's Capital Slalom Challenge on Sunset Lake in July. It was great to see national level competition and to enjoy a great evening of socializing.

The Board:

We are your neighbours. We volunteer our time to manage and run the amenities enjoyed by all in Sunset Lakes: Terry Lister – treasurer; Marcel Falardeau – communications, lawn maintenance; Claudia Buttera – gardening, lakes management, newsletters; Dennis Thomasson – lakes management; Dan Weslake - design review; Roy Rodrigues – secretary, design review; Debbie Ng - social events; Steve Baumann – Pool; Rob Koktan - canoe and pool area security.

Welcome to New Residents:

We would like to welcome the following new residents to Sunset Lakes: Ivan L'Heureux & Godelieve Deblonde; Claude & Susan Laneville; Sandi Bonini & Sylvie Faulkner; Kevin & Laura Murnaghan; Josh & Lindsay Sprague; Adon & Iris Phillips; Micheline Lebrun; Jason & Donna Wilson

Pool:

The pool officially closed on September 18th. The gates will now be locked to residents. A few personal items have been left behind (a couple of pairs of shoes, towels, beach bag with toys). Please come by soon and see if they belong to you. Security cameras at the pool show that individuals have jumped the fence, damaged property and have used the pool area as a skate/bike park. Please be advised that all cases of trespassing will be handed over to the Ottawa Police for investigation.

Community Events:

- **Fall clean-up day:** Saturday October 13th at 9:30am We will be pulling in the docks, putting the tennis nets away, storing the canoe and generally cleaning up the area. For students, this is a great way to benefit your community as well as complete some volunteer hours required to graduate from high school. Come to the pool area, meet your neighbours, enjoy coffee and Tim bits and help with the clean-up. The Rain Day will be Sunday, October 14th at 1:30 pm.
- **Christmas Caroling and Sleigh Ride:** We would like to determine the community's interest in attending the Caroling and Sleigh Ride Event. Suggested dates are December 22 or 23 (TBD). Also, we need someone who could host the hot chocolate and treats on the evening of the event. Please contact us at SLOA@Rogers.com.
- **Annual general meeting** – The AGM will take place early to mid-January (details of date and place to follow at a later date). We encourage all residents to attend. The Board will be presenting long term planning options that we need your input on.
- **Skating Rink:** For many years, residents have enjoyed the use of a common skating rink and oval on Twin Lake, but our resident volunteer rink master (John Dawson) has moved and we are looking for another dedicated and talented rink enthusiast. If you are interested in taking this on and/or helping out with the rink, please contact the Board and we will provide you with the pump and fire hose for the job. The rink is **use at your own risk**.
- **Hockey tournament:** If you are a hockey enthusiast, please contact Debbie Ng at SLOA@Rogers.com about planning a neighbourhood hockey tournament to take place on Sunset Lake and/or Twin Lake in January or February.

Water quality: A fall report from the Lake Management Committee

An early and warmer than usual spring brought the worst algae bloom ever on Twin Lake. The 1 inch thick mass of floating filamentous algae completely covered 1/3 of the lake surface for several weeks in May, and rooted algae species (*Chara*) grew both taller and spread more along the lake bottom than in other years. In addition, the lack of rainfall this summer contributed to a relative increase in concentration of nutrients in Twin Lake, promoting growth and making the battle against algae and weeds a tough challenge.

Sunset Lake saw similar conditions and, in addition, the seepage of water into the Landriault ditch may have further concentrated nutrients in the water. The size of this lake as well as the positive effect of the ski boat made the algal problem visually less dramatic than in Twin Lake.

Although we continued to apply the beneficial bacteria that we have been successfully using for several seasons and designed to consume the nutrients that promote algal growth, the treatments just could not counterbalance the effects of this unusual year and conditions.

The battle

Aggressive removal of the floating filamentous algae by some residents on Twin Lake throughout the month of May and early June had a huge impact on improving lake quality and aesthetics.

The board also purchased 4 special lake weed rakes to help with the removal of rooted lake weeds; one for Twin Lake, two for Sunset Lake and one for South Pond. In June almost every resident on Twin Lake and many on

Sunset Lake and South Pond, worked hard and pulled out countless pails of rooted weeds (*Chara*) from along their shorelines, some residents going in 8 to 10 feet into the lake! A special pond skimmer to remove floating algae was also purchased and is available for use to all residents

Regularly removing algae (floating and rooted) over time can have a significant impact on reducing the accumulation of organic matter (nutrients) in the lake bottom. By late June the combined efforts and fronts of attack resulted in Twin Lake looking considerably clearer.

Perhaps the biggest long-term weapon in the battle is the "compressed air bubbler system" purchased for Twin Lake (the hardest hit of all the lakes) and installed on August 19th, 2012. The bubbler will oxygenate the water which will promote the breakdown of organic material and encourage fish life. The bubbler will continually turn the water over to prevent stagnation and is expected to double the effectiveness of any beneficial bacterial used to control excess nutrient/algae growth.

The future plan

In order to maintain and build on the positive impact of this year's hard work on our lakes, these are our recommendations for the 2013 spring/summer season:

1. We strongly encourage all residents (not just waterfront) to eliminate the use of chemical lawn fertilizers that have high nitrogen and phosphate content. These are the nutrients that end up in the lake waters and promote algal growth. We are also looking into **natural fertilizer options** that we **hope to arrange a group/collective purchase**.
2. We plan to organize a **community wide lake weed raking effort** of all lakes and ponds in Sunset Lakes for spring of 2013 in order to make lake use more enjoyable and to reduce further accumulation of "muck" on lake bottoms. The hardest part of raking weeds out of the lake is not the raking but rather, disposing of the weeds, so we will organize to have them taken away. Our aim is to organize this most likely for one week in mid- May, 2013 (date to be determined). Waterfront residents will be encouraged to rake as many weeds out of the lake as possible and make a pile on their property. Non-waterfront residents will be encouraged to help with the public beach/access areas at Sunset Lake and Twin Lake. We'll have someone come by and take all the weeds away.
3. Once we have assessed the effectiveness of the compressed air bubbler system in Twin Lake, a similar system could be deployed into Sunset Lake. Given that the water ski boat does a good job of oxygenating and churning up Sunset Lake, we are looking at possibly starting with a bubbler at the East end where there is little boat traffic and concerns with algae and muck build-up have been an issue for a number of years.

Our mandate

We would like to ensure all lakes within our community are and remain healthy, clear enjoyable and swimmable assets. We will continue to focus on using as many natural methods as we can find to achieve this – harvesting and removal of lake weeds, beneficial biological controls (bacteria) and the compressed air bubbler system. We are also closely following what is happening in our neighbors' lakes (Lakeland Estates, South Village) as well as keeping a pulse on the greater scope of natural lake management practices and trends out there.

We thank you for all the spring/summer hard work and ask all residents to help the Lakes Committee in their 2013 efforts. The quality of our lakes has a direct impact on the property values and enjoyment of these wonderful amenities for all residents in Sunset Lakes.

Thank you
Lakes Management Committee
(Dennis Thomasson, Claudia Buttera, Russ Shearer).