

Spring Newsletter

Annual Dues

Your annual dues for 2011 have been set at \$350. They were due 15 March. We have received 80% of the dues from residents. If you have forgotten, you will find a reminder attached .

Community Events for 2011

Tennis Sign-up: The weather is finally turning warmer so it's time to shake off the winter wear and to start thinking about tennis! We have once again arranged for tennis lessons to be given at the Sunset Lakes courts on Saturday mornings for six weeks starting on May 7, 2011. Our awesome instructor, Stan (who has taught the last five years to universal acclaim) has agreed to come back again this year so it should be a great time!

Please e-mail Andrew Wilson (andrew@wilsonlawpartners.com) by APRIL 16, 2011 if you are interested in participating. He will then advise you as to final details once numbers are known. The cost will be about the same as last year (\$90 for six one-hour lessons (for the younger kids – ages 6 to 9) and \$120 for six ninety-minute lessons (for older kids and adults)).

As with past years, kids and adults (both beginner and intermediate) are encouraged to participate and separate age-group lessons will be set up for the kids. Stan is also willing to arrange for private or semi-private lessons for anyone who might be interested (on a different cost structure) so if there is interest, let Andrew know and he'll help coordinate.

Finally, as has been done in the past, any rainouts of the group lessons will be accommodated by extending the lessons by an extra week.

Spring Clean-up Day: Saturday 7 May at 9:30am (Rain Day Sunday 8 May at 1:30pm):

We will be getting ready for another great summer season. We will need your help with some general cleanup, putting in the docks, canoe, volleyball and tennis nets. Meet your neighbours at the pool and start your day off with coffee and a TimBit. If you require 40 hours of volunteer hours before graduation, here is an opportunity to add to your hours. A Board Member will sign the volunteer sheets.

See you there.

Pool: The planned opening is 20 May. Heather Counsell is once again looking for youth in the community to operate the pool during the summer months. Those interested should send her a resume by April 15 and she will contact those for an interview. You can send a digital resume via SLOA e-mail addressed to Heather- sloa@rogers.com . Rob Koktan has agreed to help Heather this year with the pool duties.

Garage sale (8:00am - 11:00am) and "Welcome In the Summer Bonfire" (7:00pm - 8:00pm) Saturday, 25 June. Details to follow.

Swimming lessons: Is there any interest in having swimming lessons at the pool? Please contact Debbie Ng at (613) 574-0143 or e-mail debdng@gmail.com). In order to book with the YMCA it is critical that we have early sign up and commitment. Sign up will also be possible during Spring Clean-up.

Water skiing: Dan and Judy Anderson once again plan to host the annual ski competition in July. More details will follow including the opportunity to sign up for the summer ski school.

Golf tournament: Marcel has agreed to organize this year's event. He is planning a local venue in the months of August or early September. Interested in helping out or able to donate a prize please contact Marcel at 821-9615.

Covenants

COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS can be found online at http://www.sunsetlakes.ca/sunsetlakes/sunset_index.htm.

Reminder of some covenants (www.sunsetlakes.ca):

We realize there are extenuating circumstances and you may need an exception to a covenant for a short period of time. If that is the case let us know and we can work out a solution. Some of the perennial observations made to the Board are:

- Driveways that have not been paved (or equivalent type surface) within one year of construction.
- Trailers, boats, RVs, etc. continue to be stored on driveways or in yards for prolonged periods (greater than a week).
- If you are planning to construct a shed, major landscaping, a fence or other exterior renovations please remember to submit the details for design review approval. The form and procedure is available at www.sunsetlakes.ca/owners-association-5/owners-association-3

AGM Meeting

The AGM for this year was held 1 Dec 2010 and was attended by approximately 20 households. If you missed it please review the minutes at the website www.sunsetlakes.ca. There was good information provided about past events and future programs.

Stay In Touch

Social Activities: If you have any ideas on potential activities or social event to improve our neighbourhood please contact Debbie Ng – 613-574-0143. Debbie Ng will be putting together a list of events with tentative timings for the upcoming year so check the web site.

Stay in touch for the latest news on our web site - www.sunsetlakes.ca. If you want to contact the Board our e-mail address is sloa@rogers.com.

Water quality and Your Responsibilities

Using **NutraFX Algae** (a safe and natural product) worked last year to control the algae in our lakes and ponds. The nitrate and phosphate levels are under control. We need volunteers to administer the products once a month in our lakes and ponds.

Nitrates and phosphates get into our water system through our septic systems and fertilizers. There is good information on care and maintenance of septic system systems on the City of Ottawa web site <http://ottawa.ca/residents/water/wells/septic/>

We continue to ask residents to assist us to help find alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers. A major factor that contributes to the problem of high levels of algae in our lakes is the *run-off from fertilizer used on lawns throughout the community*. They continue to enter into Twin Lake in significant volumes at two “hot spots” which then feeds into Sunset Lake which also has three additional culverts feeding runoff water. Without *eliminating* the use of fertilizers on our lawns this will be a **never ending battle and expense**. The only permanent solution lies in total eradication of the use of traditional fertilizers.

We introduced an alternative in 2009 - **NutraFX Turf** which acts as a bio-stimulant, helping to release soil nutrients present and improving water absorption and retention capabilities. It contains natural plant growth stimulants, minerals and vitamins. NutraFx Turf is one viable option to traditional fertilizers and with some minor research, you will find many others. If you wish to order **NutraFX Turf** please place your order through John Dawson (613-821-5113) or preferably through e-mail at john_christinedawson@rogers.com . Please do your research and use more environmentally friendly products. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, or contact Mr. Roland Poirier directly at NutraFX: (613) 258-7496 or www.nutra-fix.com