



SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Happy spring from the SLOA Board (sloa@rogers.com). We are your neighbours; next door, down the street and around the corner. We volunteer our time to manage the common areas and amenities that are enjoyed by all residents in Sunset Lakes. Marcel Falardeau looks after grass cutting & communications, Claudia Buttera takes care of the newsletter and common area gardens, Terry Lister is our treasurer, Debbie Ng is our social events organizer, Dan Weslake looks after design review, Rui Rodrigues is both secretary & design review, Rob Koktan looks after the canoe and pool area security and Dennis Thomasson looks after water quality & lakes management. Many thanks to all the other residents who help out in other ways (as you will see below). This is what makes Sunset Lakes not just a neighbourhood, but a community.

Welcomes and farewells

Welcome to Atul and Rima Kumar- we hope you will enjoy living in this great community.

We would also like to wish John and Christine Dawson a warm farewell. The Dawsons have made an immeasurable contribution to our community over their 12 years here, John serving on the Board for 8 years and building the most awesome skating rink on Twin Lake for so many years, Christine organizing a very popular book club.

Annual Dues

A reminder that 2012 annual dues (\$350) were due March 15, 2012. We have received dues from a bit over 70% of residents. If we have not yet received yours, you will find a reminder attached.

Going paperless

We would like to phase out the paper newsletter and move toward an electronic format. Please send an e-mail to sloa@rogers.com so that you are added to the e-mail list. Information, notices and this newsletter can be found on the Sunset Lakes website - www.sunsetlakes.ca

Community Events

Tennis lessons: We are once again offering tennis lessons on the Sunset Lakes courts on Saturday mornings for five weeks starting on the long weekend May 19, 2012. Our awesome instructor, Stan (who has taught the last six years to universal acclaim) has agreed to come back again this year so it should be a great time! Please e-mail Heather Wilson (wilsonheather@rogers.com) by **April 14th** if you would like to register your child or if you have any questions. She will then advise you as to final details if there is sufficient interest. The cost is \$90 for five one-hour lessons. Children will be grouped by age level and experience (e.g. novice - approx. ages 6-9, intermediate - approx. ages 10+). Lessons will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 and 9:30 to 10:30. Stan is also willing to arrange for private or semi-private lessons for anyone who might be interested (on a different cost structure) so let Heather know and she'll help coordinate.

Spring clean-up: Join us at the pool area at 9:30 am, Saturday **April 28th** (rain date, Sunday April 29th at 1:30 pm). We need your help with some general cleanup, putting in the docks, canoe, volleyball and tennis nets. Coffee and Tim Bits will be provided to get you started! **Teens:** If you need volunteer hours, here is an opportunity to add to them (Board member will be there to sign).

Garage sale: Set up your wares on your drive way on **May 5th** and happy selling!

Pool: The pool in Sunset Lakes is a private, community run pool that must meet specific City of Ottawa requirements. In order for this facility to open and operate during the summer months, it **must** have a team that is lead by an adult and takes care of a number of things on a very regular basis throughout the season. A number of resident families have taken on this responsibility and done an amazing job for the entire community over the years, most recently the Taplin family in 2011. The Taplins will be passing on the torch to the Meister family. We would like to thank Ken Meister and his family for taking this on for the 2012 season. Details about pool opening will follow closer to warm weather.

Water skiing competition: The Sunset Lakes Water Ski Club once again plans to host the Canada Day water ski competition this summer. The 18th annual Capital Slalom Challenge is scheduled for **June 30 and July 1, 2012**. Come watch some world class skiers. Potluck + fajitas from Lone Star at the pool on Saturday June 30th, at 7 pm. All are welcome, just bring a dish to add to the potluck.

Water ski school: Karen Stevens is organizing the water ski school this summer in **July** for kids young and old. Please check the website for information as July draws near. For water ski info call Dan Anderson at 613-821-4629.

Golf tournament: We need someone to organize this event for this year. If you can volunteer, contact us.

Water quality and your contribution to our lakes

Whether you live on the water or not, the health and water quality of the lakes is of utmost importance. The lakes are unique common amenities that impact the property values of every home in Sunset Lakes.

The lakes are enjoyed by all residents year round and attract beautiful wildlife during the warmer months - herons, muskrats, osprey, kingfishers, ducks and geese. Please do not feed any of the wildlife, particularly the duck and geese. One will turn into many more very, very quickly, and where there are a lot of ducks/geese, there is an undesirable amount of bird droppings that make a mess in common areas and negatively impact the water quality of the lakes.

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. Once again we ask residents to find alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers. Without *eliminating* the use of fertilizers on our lawns this will be a never ending battle and expense.

Since 2009, and with the help of volunteer residents, we have been applying NutraFX Algae (a safe and natural product -www.nutra-fix.com) once a month during the spring-summer season to control the algae in our lakes and ponds. The nitrate and phosphate levels are under control but it is a costly and temporary way to address the issue. The only permanent solution lies in total eradication of the use of traditional fertilizers. Please consider your lakes when thinking about lawn care this season.

Design review and covenants

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 DR committee is in place to make your project happen as quickly as possible and within the parameters set by the covenants. See form and procedure at www.sunsetlakes.ca/owners-association-5/owners-association-3

A reminder to residents that trailers, boats, RVs, etc. cannot be stored on driveways or in yards for prolonged periods (greater than a week). If there are extenuating circumstances and you need an exception to a specific covenant for a short period of time, contact the Board and we will work out a solution.

Enjoy your summer in Sunset Lakes