



## **SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

### **Are you in the loop?**

If you are not on our mailing list, you are not getting all the latest news about the Sunset Lakes Owners Association (SLOA). Send an email to [sloa@rogers.com](mailto:sloa@rogers.com) to be added to the mailing list.

### **SLOA Committee for 2009-2010**

John Dawson - President  
Marcel Falardeau - Vice President + Pool Access/Grass cutting/Communications  
Terry Lister - Treasurer  
Cynda Lavoie - Secretary  
Claudia Buttera - Gardening  
Helene Drouin - Water Quality Control  
John Hiddema - Pool  
Dan Weslake - Design Review  
Debbie Ng - Social Events

### **Welcome new residents**

We would like to welcome one new family to Sunset Lakes:

- Thomas McKinley & Marny Lagrove, Twin Lakes Ave.

### **Community Events / Social Activities**

Come out and meet your neighbours...and enjoy all that makes Sunset Lakes such a beautiful community

- **Water ski school** - organized by Judy Anderson will run this summer ([janderson6783@rogers.com](mailto:janderson6783@rogers.com)) - all welcome!
- **Beach Bon-fire** - end of August (date TBC)

- **Sunset Lakes Golf Tournament** – Sunday, 13 September 2009, 1:00 PM at the Metcalfe Golf Club. Price \$24.00 (plus GST) to be paid in advance to Steve Finkelstein 821-0600 or David Bekkers 821-0736. Carts extra and food after tourney can be ordered a la carte. We have tables reserved. Prizes are always welcome and will be given out by name draw at clubhouse. If we get 40 golfers, there will be a shotgun start.
- **Hockey Tournament** - mid January 2010

If anyone in the community has further suggestions for social events, and/or would be willing to help out with event planning please contact me at [debdng@gmail.com](mailto:debdng@gmail.com)

### **Lakes and Ponds Update**

As we have previously reported we are using a treatment from Nutra-Fix to reduce the algae growth in the lakes and ponds. An application has been completed to all areas and is work. The water clarity has improved and the algal growth appears to be under control. Just to remind you the treatment is a natural product that is environmentally friendly. It does not kill the algae, but does use the nitrates and phosphates in the water which in effect starve the algae which in turn die. The algae turn brown and if not collected it will sink and breakdown into black muck. All residences are encouraged to clear their beaches of the algae.

You may also see plastic turtle floating near the culverts to our lakes and ponds. These are not toys and have been placed with some of the treatment inside to address these hot spots. To assist us in keeping our lakes and ponds clear all residents are encouraged not to use nitrogen or phosphate based products on their lawns or septic systems.

We have also had the lakes tested, and although safe for swimming, e-coli does peak after rains. A source could be those nasty deposits left behind by pets that are not picked up and of course our increasing geese and duck population. Again, please pick up after your pets and please do not feed the geese or ducks. The sun's UV rays are nature's way to kill e-coli, so bring on the sun.

This summer we have implemented algae treatment plans for all the lakes and ponds in Sunset Lakes. In the future, if all residents eliminate the use of traditional fertilizers and phosphates, we will be able to eliminate this algae

treatment. Remember the NutraFX Algae is not a permanent solution, but merely a stop gap on an ever growing threat to our environment that we are causing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, or contact Mr. Roland Poirier directly at NutraFX: [www.nutra-fix.com](http://www.nutra-fix.com)

## **WILDLIFE: DUCKS AND GEESE**

As a Board, we volunteer our time to work in the best interest of all residents in the community. Monitoring, reporting and addressing the water quality of the lakes is just one of our responsibilities. The Board has had to treat our lakes for increases in algal growth for the last couple of years as a result of fertilizer use.

In the spirit of prevention, we ask residents to not feed ducks and other waterfowl in order to avoid increases in their numbers that are not naturally sustainable in these ecosystems. Beyond the obvious issues with the current increase in droppings on the beaches/water front that are used by residents, increases in duck and geese excrement damages water quality and can carry parasites that are harmful to both humans and pets. The main concerns are; a parasitic flatworm which causes 'swimmer's itch' in humans and '*Giardia*', an intestinal parasite to both humans and dogs which causes 'beaver fever'. Although we have not yet had to deal with these problems, an increase in waterfowl population in our lakes has prompted the Board to look into testing for these parasites.

The City of Ottawa currently has to deal with this problem in public parks and waters, including Andrew Haydon Park, Mooney's Bay and Petrie Island. We would like to avoid a problem in Sunset Lakes that we will then have to deal with.

We ask that residents not encourage an increase in population by feeding waterfowl. If you want to discourage geese from coming onto your lawn, you can promote or introduce medium height vegetative barriers along your shoreline or put up a rope along your beach line, but we strongly discourage residents from using force that may harm wildlife. We ask all residents to be mindful of the natural balance of the wildlife that surrounds us.

## **REMINDERS**

- **Dogs Off Leash:** As dog owners it is your responsibility to ensure dogs are on leashes in all Sunset Lakes common areas. Any dog off leash is the responsibility of the owner who will be held accountable for any damages or incidents as stated in the City of Ottawa Bylaw no 2003-77 [http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/bylaw/a\\_z/acc\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/bylaw/a_z/acc_en.html). While most dogs are very well behaved, some residents may not be comfortable with them and we should all respect that; no one should be concerned about taking a walk in a great community.
- **Pool Rules:** As many of you are enjoying our pool, please take the time to review all the safety rules and appropriate behavior with your family and ensure that only residents and their accompanied guests use our private facility. If you do not have a key, **DO NOT** jump over the fence. Contact [sloa@rogers.com](mailto:sloa@rogers.com) if you need one. Note that the pool area is closed to everyone from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM every day. If anyone is found on site during closed hours they will be assumed to be trespassers and the police will be called. Should any resident witness inappropriate behavior at the pool or on any of the community's amenities you are strongly encouraged to contact the police and have them address it. They have been given permission to act on our private lands and have repeatedly mentioned that they can not act on incidents if they are not reported. In the event that you need to communicate an incident to the police please forward the details to our email address as well for record keeping. [sloa@rogers.com](mailto:sloa@rogers.com)

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**