



The Eagle Eye Newsletter

PO BOX 539 SOUTH RIVER ON P0A 1X0
www.eaglelakeconservationassociation.com

June 2010

Editor Lois Griffin

ELCA President's Message

Summer at Eagle Lake started very early this year. Docks appeared in the Lake on the Easter weekend, boaters were out on the Lake and swimmers were in the water long before the usual date. The water is at July levels and the lake temperature is almost like mid summer. The most significant bonus of this extraordinary weather has been the almost complete absence of black flies and mosquitoes. As we all have the opportunity to begin our summer activities earlier than usual, I would like to remind cottagers to ensure that safety remains a prime consideration.

To enhance the safety of boaters on Eagle Lake, the ELCA has embarked on a significant upgrade to our lake marker program. New red and green channel marker buoys have been purchased which are larger, sturdier, less susceptible to fading, and easier to spot in all types of weather. Most of the marker buoys are now in the Lake. Later this year the ELCA will also begin a program to replace the existing anchors with stronger ones. As well, plans are being made to mark a channel around East Bay. Boaters, please do not to tie your watercraft to the buoys. The motion of the water against your boat drags the buoy away from its proper position.

We also need to be safety-minded on our municipal roads and comply with the posted speed limits. The area around the narrows presents a particular safety concern. The beach at the narrows is a popular

place for those not fortunate enough to own or rent a lakefront property. It is particularly attractive for families with children. As a result, there is a steady stream of pedestrians crossing between the beach and the store. In the past, the ELCA has requested that special measures, such as speed bumps, be installed in this area to moderate vehicle speeds. This year, the 40 km speed limit has been clearly marked for this area and the OPP have already used their radar guns to issue tickets to speeders at the narrows.

The sunny warm weather we've had has one downside — an increased potential fire hazard. The fire chief has already had to issue fire restrictions, and if the dry weather continues, there may be further restrictions throughout the summer. Before lighting fires on your property, please check that the fire restrictions have been rescinded. **This includes FIREWORKS.** If you loan or rent your property to others, please ensure they are familiar with the regulations for fires and fireworks. I would really like to discourage people from setting off fireworks as the noise and pollution has an adverse affect on the wildlife and the Lake.

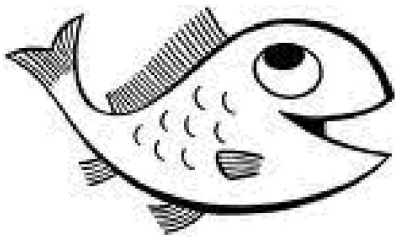
I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer at the Lake. **I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting and the ELCA Picnic on Saturday August 7th.**

- Mike Mitchell

Fish Stocking

- Lynn Loney, Lake Steward

After years of letting the ELCA undertake fish stocking on its own, the Ministry of Natural Resources has agreed to begin stocking the Lake again. In May, 1500 rainbow trout, ranging from approximately 4 to 8 inches in length, were provided by the Ministry. ELCA members assisted in putting them in the Lake. The Ministry has also renewed our license for stocking and, depending on the availability of suitable fish and adequate funds, we will add more trout in the fall. If you enjoy fishing, perhaps you would like to donate to the ELCA Fish Fund.



Banning Fertilizers

At last summer's AGM, a motion was adopted that we approach Machar Council with a request to ban the use of fertilizers on all Lake properties. There is growing concern that these fertilizers get in the Lake water and are partly responsible for the growth of algae and other plants in the Lake. A letter outlining this concern was sent to Machar Township Council. There was some confusion regarding whether the Provincial ban on pesticides includes fertilizers. (It doesn't, but the Township thought it did.) We are sorting this out with the Township and hope to have their cooperation in discouraging the use of fertilizers at least through publicity, if not by bylaw.

In the meantime, PLEASE DON'T USE FERTILIZER ON YOUR LAWN. IT EVENTUALLY ENDS UP IN THE LAKE AND WE DON'T WANT A GREEN LAKE!

ELCA Annual General Meeting and Picnic

Saturday August 7, 2010

- Rosemary Riley, Picnic Chair

Mark your calendars, everyone. Our ELCA BIG DAY is Saturday, August 7, 2010.

The AGM will be held, as in the past, at the Friendly Circle Seniors' Building in South River, and will commence promptly at 9 a.m. We have lots of "hot topics" to discuss, so do plan on attending and sharing your ideas with us! Coffee and goodies will be provided. Both ELCA decals and T-shirts will be available at that time, as well as a chance to renew your membership.

Then at 1 p.m. the Annual Picnic for ELCA members takes place at Mikisew Park. Bring your family and your appetites... fresh Ontario corn and Shopsy hotdogs will be yours for the taking, as well as cold drinks and nibbles. Lots of games are planned for the young (complete with prizes), as well as the annual North End versus South End Rope Pull Contest. May the gods bless us with good weather. (Apparently, this summer promises to be "hot & dry".) See you all there.

By the way, the executive has decided that in future years this event will always be on the Saturday following the August long weekend. Hopefully this will make it easier to plan ahead and work this event into your holiday plans.

Water Quality Report

-Debra Lamb

Each May a total of 4 samples of Eagle Lake water are collected — two from the deepest area in the north end and two from the south end. The water samples are sent to the Ministry of the Environment where they are evaluated for total phosphorus content. Total phosphorus concentration is ideally used to interpret the nutrient status of a lake. Phosphorus is the element that controls algal growth. Generally, more phosphorus means more algal growth.

For the samples collected in May of 2009 and analyzed by the Ministry, the total phosphorus concentration in the north end water sample was 5.6 µg/L (micrograms/litre) and 4.9 µg/L for the south end sample.

What does this mean? These results mean that our lake is considered oligotrophic---a dilute, unproductive lake that rarely experiences nuisance algal blooms. Eagle Lake has consistently had total phosphorus concentrations of less than 10 µg/L.

How can you be a part of keeping the nutrient status of Eagle Lake low to prevent algal growth?

- maintain a natural shoreline to increase nutrient uptake by plants and reduce erosion and nutrients leaching into the lake
- use low phosphorus detergents and soaps
- avoid fertilizing your lawn (the greener your lawn, the greener the lake!)
- do not wash cars near the lake or use shampoos or soap in the lake
- pump out your septic tank every 3-6 years

Let's keep our lake clean!

Cottage Watch

The Eagle Lake Conservation Association helps ensure your cottage is safe when you are away. If you see that your neighbour's cottage is damaged and you don't know how to contact them, call: Neil at 492-8353

or

Chris at 386-0772

and they will ensure the owner is notified.

2010 AGM and Picnic

Saturday August 7, 2010

Meeting: 9 a.m. Senior's Centre South River

Picnic: 1 p.m. Mikisew Provincial Park

FireSmart Your Cottage

-Lynne Edwards, FOCA Rep

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA) encourages landowners to plan ahead to protect cottages from fires and from the risk of forest fires and to follow safe burning guidelines for brush and campfires.

FireSmart your cottage with a seasonal checklist: (see **FOCA website at www.foca.on.ca for the complete list**)

Spring

- Clean dead vegetation out of shrubs and other foundation plantings.
- Connect your garden hose to an outdoor spigot and attach a nozzle. Make sure other firefighting tools like shovels, rakes and buckets are handy.
- Move firewood and lumber piles to at least 10m away from your buildings.

Summer

- Clean gutters and remove flammable debris from roof.
- Keep vegetation cut around propane tanks and buildings to provide a green barrier that fire will not burn.
- Keep the area in a 10 m diameter of buildings relatively clear of combustible materials.
- Post road signs or house number in reflective materials so they can be clearly seen in the dark.

Safe Burning (including fireworks)

- Check with your municipality before burning any leaves and debris. You may be required to get a permit, or there may be a restricted fire zone in effect. **Better still, take all debris to the dump.**
- **Fire bans include FIREWORKS.**
- Never burn when its windy.
- Never leave your fire unattended.
- Use a fire pit for campfires.
- Make sure all glowing embers are extinguished before you leave your fire.

**DON'T MISS THE ELCA....
2010 Annual General Meeting and Picnic
Saturday August 7, 2010**

Meeting: 9 a.m. Senior's Centre South River
Picnic: 1 p.m. Mikisew Provincial Park

Lake Markers
- Neil Gutjahr

If you haven't noticed yet, the NEW lake markers have been installed. These new markers are larger and more visible than the previous ones.

Red and green are the colours used to indicate a navigation channel.

- **RED is a Starboard Buoy.** Keep this marker on the **right** side of your boat when traveling **upstream** (and on the left when going downstream).
- **GREEN is a Port Buoy.** Keep this marker on the **left** side of your boat when traveling **upstream** (and on the right when going downstream).
- **WHITE or YELLOW is a Hazard Buoy.** This indicates rocks and shoals.

What's 'upstream' and 'downstream' on Eagle Lake?

Upstream is north, and downstream is south to the outlet which is found on the south-west side of the Lake at Park Road, just north of the Hockey Opportunity Camp. There are two large culverts located there which allow the Lake water to flow out into the Distress River, which flows south to the Magnetewan River, which flows west into Georgian Bay.

Have a safe boating season!

Lake Plan Update
-Lois Griffin

Since Machar Township Council has not been willing at this time to update the official plan, (they don't have enough money yet - only

\$10,000 in the kitty), the committee has looked at a specific area of concern, namely the redevelopment of existing cottages.

The zoning bylaw requires a 23 m setback from the Lake for new cottages. However, if an existing cottage is located within the 23 m setback, building officials are allowing it to be reconstructed with the same setback encroachment but with a much wider and larger overall footprint than the original. This is substantially increasing its impact on the Lake and on the sensitive "ribbon of life".

A letter was sent to the Township asking them to review this provision. They had their planner send a suggested revision for our comments. We reviewed this, sent some comments, and as well met with the Council in April. Their planner has indicated a cost of \$5000 to make this bylaw change. Discussions with the Township continue and we hope to make progress. Stayed tuned for further information.

Photo Contest

Don't forget the
Eagle Lake Conservation Association
ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST!

It's open to all members of ELCA except Directors and their families. Capture your best cottage moments on film. There are three categories to choose from:

Nature
Humour
Cottage Life

The deadline is July 18th, 2010
Send your submissions to:
ELCA Photo Contest
PO Box 539 South River, Ontario P0A 1X0

To view the 2009 winners, go to our website.

SPECIAL THANKS to Judy Sutton for the filing cabinet donation. We can now organize and properly store the ELCA files!