

THE TWIN SISTER LAKES  
COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

**“VIEW THROUGH THE CULVERT  
2007 EDITION”**



*-- photo courtesy of Lois Tomc  
Winner of 2006 photo contest*

**The newsletter of the Twin Sister Lakes Ratepayers' Association.**

## **Welcome to the 2007 Newsletter:**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Every year the development of a Newsletter is a challenge and I certainly appreciate the efforts put into this project by Dana and Rick Orchard. It is a formidable task and one that has been handled perfectly. Thank you, Dana and Rick.

I think everyone has their own view of what a Ratepayers or Cottage Association should be doing. Some think that the Association should design and execute social events that bring people together and others view the Association as a quasi-political group capable of bringing attention to the Ratepayers concerns by politicians at all levels. Still others see it as a spot to send their annual dues, stand back and see what happens at the Annual General Meeting.

I am pleased to report that the Twin Sisters Lake Ratepayers Association is all of these and none of these.

The Association does organize the Annual General meeting and the Executive organizes monthly meetings starting in May and ending at the August AGM. While these are not necessarily social events they do take a fair amount of organizing and it does bring both the East and West Lakes together to examine joint lake issues. It also means that the members of the Executive give up a few hours on a Saturday morning for three months to concentrate on your issues as we enjoy some of Barb Craig's great cookies and muffins.

The Association seldom advances political concerns unless we are directed to do so. Currently the President and the Association is being continually pressured to join Tax Coalitions that are fighting tax rate issues in Ontario. The Association is a member of the Waterfront Ratepayers Associations For Fair Taxation (W.R.A.F.T.) but it has chosen not to join other Ratepayer and Lake Associations that are

watch-dogging the Marmora-Lake Council. The other Associations expect the Councillors they helped elect to champion each of their Association issues. We have our own executive member sitting on the Marmora-Lake Council and wouldn't there be some expectation that she champions our issues. The answer is no!

We expect Councils to be elected to serve all of the community with integrity and impartiality. It would be a dysfunctional council that tries to serve two masters and sooner or later it must choose just one. Will we disagree with their decisions? Sure we will. Will we feel from time to time that we are not getting our fair share of services? Sure we will. But at all times I am convinced that the Council members try their best to do the right things.

In May, we again examined our role as an Association and whether we should hold our course in regards to not joining local taxation coalitions. Our decision remains the same and

we are not joining taxation coalitions in the Marmora-Lake region and we are not supporting other than the WRAFT coalition.

Carefully examine the performance of our Council over the past five years. We have had local tax freezes yet services were expanded. We have new sewage treatment facilities being developed. We have a Medical Centre with more than reasonable services for the residents. Is the idea that we have a Doctor in Marmora realistic or attainable? Probably not. However, we have the best solution we can expect with the tri-community health network.

I don't have a desire to watchdog our Council. At the same time, if our Association members have an issue that involves the Council then I am prepared to take that issue to Council. The benefit is that when we do approach Council we have a tendency to get their response quickly.

My final point is that life on the Lake is more than just the Annual

Meeting. I receive several comments that let me know that the Executive is supported and following the right course of action. The interest in the Association by new Lake members is encouraging and I hope some day to move off the Executive to let these new ideas percolate to the top. Until then we will hold the course, remain political only on our own members' issues and do our best to protect the pristine nature of our Lake.

This year has been a year with few issues and that is a good thing. At the same time the AGM does allow the membership to direct the Executive in terms of priorities and issues. All I can ask is that you attend and let us know what you would like the Twin Sister Lakes Ratepayers Association to be doing on your behalf.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, August 11.

-- Jack Watkins  
President  
Jwatkins3@cogeco.ca

(705) 745-3882  
(613) 472-0933

**WE NEED ENTRIES  
FOR THE TWIN  
SISTERS LAKES  
PHOTO CONTEST**

At the 2002 Annual General Meeting the Executive introduced the idea of a photo contest at Twin Sister Lakes. Each year we ask all lake residents to participate in this great adventure.

We need you to submit your best photos in one, two, or each of the following three categories:

- **FUN AT THE LAKE**
- **PETS OR WILDLIFE AT THE LAKE**
- **SCENIC VIEWS OF THE LAKE**

Photos can be submitted to Director Bonnie Danes up to and including the morning before the Annual General Meeting. The photos can be on any size of formatting and they will be judged just prior to the Annual Meeting.

The winning photos and photos receiving

honourable mention in each category will be displayed at the Annual General Meeting. One of the submitted photos will be chosen as “Best Over-All Photo” for that year. Your photo will be framed and a recognition plaque will be mounted on the frame. The photo will be returned to the winner for hanging at your cottage.

Like all endeavours, this will only work if you participate. The photos must be taken in the current 2006-2007 year. You cannot submit photos from previous years.

This is a fun thing to do and we hope that people do participate to show everyone those special photos from our lake. Computer printed photos are acceptable since many people have now opted for digital photography. Computer enhanced photos create an unfair advantage and we ask that the photos be submitted in their original format.

Please bring your photos to the Annual General Meeting or submit your photos to Bonnie Danes or any member of the Lake Executive.

## **LAKE WATER TESTING**

Greeting cottagers, I am sure we are all enjoying yet another great summer season. Our beautiful lake and environment is once again in full bloom and alive with wildlife!

I am excited to announce a new fisheries and wildlife program this year. Additional yearly water tests will be done to help us stay informed on the overall health of our lake ecosystem. E-coli tests will still be done every 2 years to test overall water safety and address any health concerns (this was done last year). Beginning this year, Ammonia, pH and Nitrate tests will be done (in the same testing locations) to provide us with information about the overall water quality and health of our watershed. These additional tests will give us significant insight into how well our ecosystem is able to filter biological and organic wastes, balance natural acids and carbon dioxide levels, and if there are any areas of environmental stress. I also wanted to send out a reminder to keep our

eyes open for any purple loosestrife. Your continued help to ensure this invasive plant stays within control is always appreciated. Now, while the plant is still flowering, is the best time to implement our control techniques. If you see the plant you are encouraged to cut the flowering segment off or cut the entire stock down to the water/ground level. This will prevent the plant’s seeds from spreading and inhibit growth. If the plant is small enough, you can pull the plant and remove the entire root system to prevent the plant from re-growing. The plants can be burned thoroughly or disposed of in securely tied plastic bags. The key is to prevent the seeds from spreading. Thank you for your continued interest and concern for the overall well-being of our magnificent cottage haven.

*--Melanie Hicks*

*TSLRA Director of Fisheries and Wildlife*

## **DUMP HOURS**

Many of us find the hours at the local dump inconvenient. TSLRA

director Melanie Hicks has taken it upon herself to write to council on our behalf.

*Here's the contents of her letter:*

My name is Melanie Hicks, I am writing on behalf of the Twin Sister Lakes Ratepayers Association. As seasonal residents, most of us do not require regular garbage pick up service; although, dealing with our garbage is an ongoing issue for many of us. We are grateful that there is a local garbage dump available for our use. However, the dump only has hours of operation that are realistic for full-time residents. As there are no services currently available to us on Sunday, most of our members need to transport their garbage home with them. It would be convenient if the local dump offered more availability on weekends. A Sunday drop-off option would be much more efficient than carting our garbage back home. We are asking that you consider an extended service at the local dump to help accommodate the needs

of your seasonal taxpayers. Please feel free to contact me via mail, phone or e-mail. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

*Sincerely,  
Melanie Hicks*

### **GENERAL STORE OPENS IN CORDOVA**

There's a new but familiar face in Cordova. Bill and Kelly Harris have opened a new general store. Some of you may have noticed the very large log structure being built on Crofts Rd. this spring. It is finally open and replaces the very popular general store that closed across the street last year. Kelly Harris is a Cordova native, who says she has long dreamed of moving back to the area with her husband, Bill. The store, called Sam's Place, is named after her grandfather, Sam Hornsby, who owned the original homestead in that location. The store, which carries general merchandise including camping and cottage needs, has applied for a license to sell wine, liquor and

beer. Among its many enticing features are home-made pies, Reid's ice cream (from Belleville) and a propane tank exchange.

### **BRIDGE REPAIR**

The South Twin Sister Lakes Road bridge is scheduled for reconstruction this summer, starting July 15. The bridge is on Lot 24, Concession 3 in the Township of Marmora. It spans an unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek. On the west side of the road the area is natural forest while north of the creek is a residence (Hans Knoll's place). On the east side the area is wooded both north and south of the creek. Transport Canada - Navigable Waters Protection determined that the creek was non-navigable. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) concluded that the project would not result in harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Ministry of Natural Resources also noted that the project would not require an MNR permit.

The detour around the site is approximately 1/2 km.

The existing bridge is a 2-lane 6 m structure. The new bridge will be a CSP open bottom multi-plate arch type structure with new guide rails. A temporary by-pass 1m culvert will be installed during construction to divert the stream.

-- Dana Flavelle,  
East Twin Sisters Lake,  
based on information  
supplied by the ministry.

### **Membership fees**

The association is asking that once again cottagers contribute \$15 per family to the cost of running the association. These fees help offset the cost of water testing, printing the newsletter and other association activities on your behalf. Please bring your contribution to the annual meeting in August or mail them to Jack Watkins  
c/o Twin Sisters Lakes  
Ratepayers Association,  
762 Pinewood Drive,  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9K 1L4.

**THE ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING IS  
SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup> AT  
10:00 A.M. AT  
THE CULVERT.  
HOT DOGS,  
DRINKS AND  
HOT COFFEE  
PROVIDED.**

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**Please bring a dessert  
to share.**

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**We'd like to put  
together an e-mail  
alert list. If you wish to  
be added to the list,  
please send your e-mail  
to Rick Orchard at  
rorchard@thestar.ca**

### **Executive Members**

Jack Watkins-President  
Home: 705-745-3882  
Cottage: 613-472-0933

Janet Watkins-Treasurer  
Home: 705-745-3882  
Cottage: 613-472-0933

Barb Craig-Secretary  
Home: 416-236-9773  
Cottage: 613-472-0935

Charlie O'Neill-Director  
705-472-1541

Bonnie Danes-Director  
613-472-6107

Melanie Hicks-Director  
905-441-2426

Rick Orchard-Director  
416-699-7187

Chander Chaddah-  
Director

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*If you'd like to submit a  
letter, comment or an  
article for the next  
newsletter, please email  
Rick Orchard  
rorchard@thestar.ca  
or Dana Flavelle  
\_dflavelle@thestar.ca*