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GREETINGS! We hope you had a pleasant winter and that you are looking forward to the first summer season of the new millennium on beautiful Lower Beverley Lake.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2000

Date: WEDNESDAY July 19, 2000
Time: Registration 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM
Place: United Church, Delta

The LBLA membership voted to change the annual meeting to the third Wednesday in July. The format will be a brief business meeting in the evening, to encourage wider attendance and participation. Your representatives have been working on many initiatives and concerns of the Lake community (see below) and we will update the latest status and address new concerns at the Annual Meeting.

NEW LBLA WEBSITE: <http://lbla.eton.ca>

Thanks to the effort, skill, and resources of Neil Herber and Jan Reatherford, LBLA now boasts its own website. We plan to post the annual newsletter, and update status on LBLA initiatives, new concerns, etc. as the year progresses. Please give your comments and suggestions to the Webmaster.

WATER SAFETY and SAFE BOATING

Work has continued since last summer to update "Care of the Lake" and safe boating publications, spearheaded by several members of LBLA. A Sergeant from OPP Rideau Lakes Detachment and four OPP officers have provided advice and assistance. Commercial Arts students at Smiths Falls Collegiate did the graphics. One result is the three publications enclosed:

SAFE AND CONSIDERATE BOATING ON LBL
REPORTING BAD BOATING BEHAVIOR ON LBL
DATABASE OF ALL WATERCRAFT OPERATED ON LBL

Please retain the first two and use them appropriately, and provide the information requested on the Database and return the information to LBLA.

A second result is a plan to greet campers entering the Lower Beverley Lake Township Park on three peak arrival weekends. The first two publications along with the "Safe Boating Guide" will be distributed and Database information collected. OPP Auxiliary Officers and members of LBLA will cooperate in this activity. Our objective is to maintain and improve safe and considerate boating by visitors to our lake and creeks.

OPERATOR COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

The operator of a pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes must have proof of competency on board by the following dates:
Operator born after April 1, 1983 Sep 15, 1999
All operators of craft less than 4m/13ft Sep 15, 2002
All operators Sep 15, 2009
Details of requirements are available in the "Safe Boating Guide", which can be obtained by calling the Boating Safety Infoline (1-800-267-6687) or visiting the Canadian Coast Guard website (www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca). For people who wish to prepare themselves to take the examination for a boating Operator Competency card,

LBLA has obtained copies of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron "Boat Pro Manual", available at the public libraries in Delta and Lyndhurst. In Ontario, for approximately \$20, a similar booklet may be obtained from some motor vehicle license issuing offices, and at some offices, for a fee of \$30, it is possible to take the Operator Competency exam and have a card issued. If you would like both a course and exam, see your phone book Yellow Pages under "Boating and Sailing Instruction".

COTTAGE WATCH

The tremendous response to Ontario's Cottage Watch Program is mirrored by the response on Lower Beverley Lake. More than 150 Cottage Watch groups have been formed throughout Ontario in the first year of the program, and more than 110 LBL cottages now have the Cottage Watch decals in their windows.

For those of you who have not yet been canvassed or are unaware of the program, Cottage Watch is a program sponsored by a grant from the Partners in Crime Prevention program, Ministry of Solicitor General. The program itself is roughly a lakeside equivalent to Neighbourhood Watch. It organizes lakeside residents to identify valuables and assist each other to prevent crime. The Rideau Lakes OPP Detachment reports that there has been only one report of a Break & Enter on LBL this winter, compared to six in 1998.

A request for funding for large Cottage Watch road signs has been submitted to the Police Services Board of the Township of Rideau Lakes, and we are hopeful of consideration in their budget for 2000. We have ordered smaller signs (9"x12" dock signs) that will be available to individuals for approximately \$25.

If you are willing to canvass your particular part of utopia or if you are interested in joining the program, please call John Truyens at 928-3199.

WATER LEVEL MONITORING and CONTROL

LBLA representatives met with the Water Resources Technician of the MNR at the Delta and Lyndhurst measurement points on August 18, 1999. Dams at Delta, Lyndhurst, and Morton enable water levels to be controlled more or less independently in our watershed. During non-frozen months, MNR takes weekly readings. For optimum benefit of residents and recreational users of the waterways, MNR tries to keep the summer fluctuation to 15 cm/6 inches. However, many factors must be juggled to achieve an optimum level, including snowfall, frost depth, seasonal rainfall/dry spells, heat waves/evaporation, etc. We obtained a copy of guidelines established some years ago with MNR regarding appropriate water levels for LBL, and will work with MNR to monitor water levels. Please report concerns regarding water level to Don Santos (928-3111), and not directly to MNR.

LBLA FISHERY

MNR was contacted expressing LBLA concern regarding netting of coarse fish during late winter/early spring, lower creel count of game fish, and requesting consideration of establishing fish sanctuaries in LBL. The response from the MNR Area Biologist indicated an assessment of the current fish population was desirable before designing any fisheries management for LBL.

MNR is considering a netting program, which could be augmented by voluntary angler creel/diary surveys. A meeting is being scheduled in June to explore ways in which concerned members, persons licensed to fish commercially in LBL, and MNR can cooperate in preserving the fishery.

We are also gratified by Resolution #429-99 by the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes regarding LBLA fish netting concerns. The LBLA Brochure on Fishing will be available again this year.

A Fish and Wildlife Guardian Program has been inaugurated by MNR to utilize local volunteers to provide positive information and education to anglers and hunters. Volunteers will be given two days of training, to prepare them for a non-confrontational role in monitoring spawning areas, and assisting in understanding regulations and sanctuary protection. This program enables concerned LBLA members to play an active part in conservation and show users of our resource that we care about the lake. We are grateful that a few members have already applied to be Guardians starting in the summer of 2000, and hope you can help. For additional details, please contact Doug Kilpatrick at 1-613-283-9731.

TAKE A LITTLE LEAD OUT

LBLA will participate in the area wide effort to eliminate use of lead sinkers. Loons and other water birds with similar feeding habits foraging for food can swallow lead when they eat fish with sinkers or jigs attached. In Ontario, 30% of adult loon mortality is attributed to ingestion of lead sinkers and jigs. Clare Angermann (928-2683) will be leading this effort for LBLA.

DELTA TOWN DOCK

We are pleased to report that work was initiated and continued late into fall on the Delta town dock. The creek bank has been completely stabilized and the mill pond has been dug out. The Township Park staff is constructing a new dock that will be ready for the upcoming boating season. There are still funds available for repairs to the staircase to the parking lot, and associated landscaping.

SEWAGE SYSTEMS/SHORELINE SURVEY

Only 24 property owners agreed to participate in the survey offered in last spring's Newsletter, too few to accomplish an organized meaningful survey. LL Green ("Leeds and Lanark Green Community"), a non-profit organization of people trained, experienced, and dedicated to care of our environment, was able to schedule visits to 15 of the properties. Conservation of domestic water and energy was considered, in addition to sewage and shoreline. Primary sewage related concerns included lack of inspection (should be every two years), too long between pump-outs (should be three to five years), and overloading. In general, clients reported a high degree of satisfaction, several receiving special shower heads and toilet flush water conservation devices. LL Green is willing to try to do more surveys this summer (they appreciate a \$25 donation). A new (1999) publication "A Guide to Operating & Maintaining Your Septic System" is available from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (1-800-267-9438).

All of the properties were considered to be in need of further rehabilitation of shorelines to varying degrees. Residents wishing plants to rehabilitate their shorelines are invited to call Doug Kilpatrick, who will coordinate obtaining them from MAPLE (the Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environment).

WATER QUALITY ® ®

LBLA has been expanding water testing since 1994 to better evaluate water quality trends and potential problem areas. As government funding has been reduced, we have aggressively sought alternative sources for testing, and are making up the shortfall to ensure continuing stewardship of the lake. Our current testing includes weekly clarity measurements and limited phosphorous testing at Oak Bay (the area beyond the Narrows by Morton Creek, an unsettled area with infrequent input from the Rideau chain), Kendricks Bay (LBL deep water basin), Black Jack Island (input from Cooligan Creek), and Upper Beverley Lake dam

(inlet to LBL). Water clarity and algal level trends are displayed in the enclosed Water Quality Exhibit.

In 1998, we were among the first lakes to participate in the initial FOCA Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program. The analyses indicated the presence of the first stage of Zebra Mussel activity in 4 of 5 areas sampled in LBL (Kendricks Bay, Marble Island, mouth of Delta Creek, and Oak Bay).

Water clarity measurements are made to determine the depth of effective light penetration sufficient to sustain aquatic plant and algal growth. The greater this depth, the clearer the water, and readings less than 3 metres classifies a lake as "enriched (too many nutrients), the poorest clarity category. Data available back to 1971 indicates LBL measurements have consistently been less than 3 metres, but have been demonstrating an improving trend since 1990. Results deteriorated in 1998, due in part to unusually high water levels in July resulting in increased watershed runoff. Clarity improved in 1999 consistent with a regional trend, attributed to low rainfall and nutrients staying on land and wetlands.

Water clarity is an indirect measure of the algal density in the lake, which is affected by the level of nutrients present. Water samples are chemically analyzed to determine the nutrient level; the lower the level the better. Chlorophyll concentration measurements (an indicator of the microscopic algae in the water) were used through 1995: a measurement of 4+ micrograms/Litre indicates high algal density and is considered "enriched". LBL measurements were above this level through 1995. The Ministry changed the analysis in 1996 to the phosphorous concentration (the single most important nutrient governing the level of algae in the water). On phosphorous measurements, we improved and fell into the "moderately enriched"(some nutrients) category until our improving trend reversed in 1998. Nutrient levels fell in many Ontario lakes early in 1999, and June measurements in Kendricks Bay matched this trend, but subsequent measurements in all LBL locations were above the "enriched" threshold.

DONATIONS TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Of the 106 replies to our Newsletter 1999, 51 donations to volunteer fire departments were made totaling a very commendable \$800. Individual contributors were identified to the following:

Bastard & South Burgess	\$665
South Crosby	\$ 70
Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne	\$ 65

To provide continuing support, please see the enclosed LBLA Registration Form.

LOOKING BACK

LBLA wants to take this opportunity to thank Doug Kilpatrick for his dedication and devotion to the Lower Beverley Lake Association. He has served as President since 1991, and has agreed to take on a newly created position as Executive Secretary, with primary focus on year-round liaison with governmental agencies and other lake associations.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE SEASON !

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY JULY 19, at 7 PM.

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