

- LOWER BEVERLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION -

®

P.O. BOX 204, DELTA, ONTARIO K0E 1G0

+ SPRING 2001

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2001 +

OFFICERS:

President: Don Santos

Cottage Phone: 1-613-928-3111
e-mail: mary0918@aol.com

1st Vice President: Millard Goodsell

Cottage Phone: 1-613-928-2845
e-mail: xlgood@juno.com

2nd Vice President: John Truyens

Year-round Phone: 1-613-928-3199
e-mail: tjtruyens@hotmail.com

LBLA WEBSITE: <http://lbla.eton.ca>**Executive Secretary: Doug Kilpatrick**

Year-round Phone: 1-613-283-9731
Cottage Cellular: 1-613-284-6374
e-mail: mann@falls.igs.net

Recording Secretary: Janet Capell

Year-round Phone: 1-613-273-4472
e-mail: jrcapell@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Betty Penstone

Year-round Phone: 1-613-928-2088
e-mail: cedar.knoll@sympatico.ca

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2001**Date: WEDNESDAY July 18, 2001****Time: Registration 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM****Place: United Church, Delta**

Last year, the LBLA membership decided to change the annual meeting to the **third Wednesday in July in the evening**, to encourage wider attendance and participation. We were pleased with the significant increase in attendance and the membership voted to continue the Wednesday evening meeting time this year.

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.

WATER SAFETY and SAFE BOATING

LBLA members with assistance from OPP developed our "**Safe and Considerate Boating**" brochures and forms which were mailed with our Newsletter 2000. Another initiative was an educational campaign on three peak arrival weekends at the LBL Township Park. Over Victoria Day, Canada Day, and Civic Holiday, a total of eleven LBLA volunteers and six Regular/Auxiliary OPP Officers distributed brochures and forms, and gathered data on entering watercraft.

For 2001, our objective is to reach more boaters at the park by trying to make arrangements for distribution of our brochures from the LBL Park Office as people register, and requesting OPP Marine to patrol the lake as often as possible. To report a serious incident requiring immediate response, phone 911. To make a routine report of dangerous or inconsiderate behavior, phone OPP Rideau Lakes at 613-283-6911.

OPERATOR COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

The operator of a pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes is required to 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

This regulation also applies to non-residents operating their pleasure craft in Canadian waters after 45 consecutive days. 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.

Pleasure Craft Operator Cards (PCOC) can be obtained from some Ontario Motor Vehicle Licensing Offices (phone your local office), some boating organizations (call Canadian Power and Sail Squadron [white pages] or "Boating Instruction" [yellow pages]), and on line at www.BoaterExam.com, e-mail BoaterExam.com, or phone at 1-877-682-6773

(Instruction + Exam + PCOC Application: \$45/person; Exam + PCOC Application: \$25/person).

As requested at the 2000 Annual General Meeting, Doug Kilpatrick has made arrangements for a **formal class instruction** in Delta, on **Saturday, July 21** at the Delta United Church hall. The \$50/person fee (group rate) covers Instruction + Manual + *Safe Boating Guide* + Exam + PCOC Application. The fee for the Exam + PCOC Application only is \$30/person. A retired OPP Marine officer, beginning at 9am, will conduct the course; the exam (1 hour) starts at noon. The class will be open to LBLA members, non-members, non-residents, and children, with places allocated first to members. We need a minimum of twenty participants, maximum twenty-five. To sign-up, make an appropriate entry on the LBLA Registration Form. Reservations are required by June 23 and registrants will be notified by July 8. Fees to be paid at the time of instruction/exam.

For people who wish to prepare themselves to take the examination for a PCOC, LBLA has obtained copies of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron "*Boat Pro Manual*", available at the public libraries in Delta and Lyndhurst.

AGE-HORSEPOWER RESTRICTIONS

- **Under 12**, not directly supervised [accompanied/directly supervised in the boat by a person 16 or older]; **no more than 10 hp**
- **Between 12 and 16**, not directly supervised; **no more than 40 hp**
- **Under 16**, **not allowed to operate a Personal Watercraft**

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, and more than 125 LBL cottages now have the Cottage Watch decals in their windows or dock signs on their property.

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.

Our request for funding for large Cottage Watch road signs from the Township of Rideau Lakes was not approved, but we have a supply of attractive smaller signs (9"x12" dock signs) that will be available to individuals for \$20.

If you are willing to canvass your area or if you are interested in joining the program, please call John Truyens at 613-928-3199.

WATER LEVEL MONITORING and CONTROL

Dams at Delta, Lyndhurst, and Morton enable water levels to be controlled more or less independently in our watershed. For optimum benefit of residents and recreational users of the waterways, MNR's objective is

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 will continue to work with MNR to monitor water levels. Please report concerns regarding water level to Don Santos (613-928-3111), and not directly to MNR.

SHOAL/HAZARD MARKING

Public minded users of the lake have for many years placed warning markers on shoals and other hazards to navigation. General safety on LBL will be enhanced if residents mark areas they are aware of.

LBLA FISHERY

MNR responded to our concerns regarding lower creel counts and coarse fish netting. They indicated that regulated commercial fishing is an important part of fisheries management. Removal of allowed species in compliance with allocated quotas enhances game fish stock by reducing predators that attack spawning beds. Game fish stocking in LBL is considered unnecessary because available data indicates our fish population is adequate and well supported in the enriched lake environment.

MNR conducted a **Near Shore Community Netting** project last August in partnership with a team from Queens University. Netting was conducted at several locations with each day's catch catalogued and measured for comparison to indices based on results at similar lakes.

Follow-on projects include a **Voluntary Angling Survey**, where anyone who fishes completes an MNR form indicating what/when/where was caught. We are trying to arrange the issue and return of forms through Fishing License issuers in Delta and Lyndhurst. A second initiative is a **Voluntary Activity Count**, where a team on the lake counts the number of people fishing. The objective is to obtain data on pressure on the LBL fishery. Ted Brett, a year-round resident, will coordinate these projects. If you can assist whenever you are on the lake, please contact Ted at 613-928-2719, or e-mail at 3pines@sympatico.ca.

MNR indicates these assessments of current fish population are necessary before designing a fisheries management programme for LBL.

TAKE A LITTLE LEAD OUT

LBLA is endorsing 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 attached. In Ontario, 30% of adult loon mortality is attributed to ingestion of lead sinkers and jigs. Clare Angermann (613-928-2683) will be leading this effort for LBLA.

SEWAGE SYSTEMS/SHORELINE SURVEY

In response to the Newsletters of 1999 and 2000, 32 property owners asked for a Sewage System/Shoreline Survey. In the summer of 1999, *LL Green*, a non-profit organization of people trained and experienced in promoting care of the environment, was able to perform surveys of 15 properties around the lake. Feedback from the property owners we contacted was positive. Unfortunately, *LL Green* was not able to renew its funding for 2000 or 2001. We have maintained a list of those people who requested but did not receive the service. It is possible that *LL Green* may be able to make something happen in 2002. Please indicate your interest in a survey on the Registration Form.

WATER QUALITY

Approximately 550 lake locations were sampled in the Lake Partner Program in 2000. Slightly more than 20% were classified as "enriched" (high in nutrients) with comparatively poor clarity (less than 3 Metres). Lower Beverley is in this category with consistent trends over the past three years. The presence of Zebra Mussels in LBL was confirmed in 1998. See attached details and the LBLA website.

RABIES

In February 2001, MNR reported three new cases between Athens and Lyndhurst, despite extensive measures to control raccoon rabies. This brings the

number of confirmed cases in Leeds & Grenville to over 30 since July, 1999. You can help by keeping pets under control and shots up to date, and eliminate potential wildlife food sources from around your home. If your pet has been in contact with a potentially rabid animal, or you find a dead raccoon or skunk with no obvious cause of death, call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 613-342-3682. If you come in contact with a potentially rabid animal, alive or dead, contact the Health Unit at 613-345-5685 or 1-800-660-5853.

LOON NESTING PLATFORMS

LBLA volunteers, using their donated materials and purchased hardware, constructed two platforms to be positioned after ice-out. It will be necessary to recover them in the autumn. Because of the size and weight of the platforms (and their construction site), they will be placed south of the Narrows. Construction of two additional platforms is planned for 2001, for placement in other lake areas. An application has been submitted to MNR for a grant from the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Programme, to help defray the costs of this activity.

LAKE ASSOCIATIONS INITIATIVES

Initiatives from the Alliance of Rideau Lakes Associations (ARLA) and the Cataraqui Region Lakes Stewards Network (CRLSN) that were supported at the LBLA General Meeting in 2000 include the following:

- Sewage System mandatory inspection to ensure efficiency when ownership of property changes. The intention is to improve water quality throughout the watershed and involves several municipalities. However, based on experience in other locations, this could have a negative impact on property resale.
- Proposed ban on water sports involving towing during the same hours when navigation lights must be shown.

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

Thanks to the effort, skill, and resources of Neil Herber and Jan Reatherford, LBLA boasts its own website. We are posting meeting minutes, the annual newsletter, and current status on LBLA initiatives, new concerns, etc. as the year progresses. Please make use of this new resource and give your comments and suggestions to the Webmaster.

DONATIONS TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS

From the modest beginning in 1994 when 33 members donated a total of \$381, 60 members donated \$899 in 2000, bringing LBLA contributions to \$4,300!

	2000	1999
Bastard & South Burgess	\$684	\$665
South Crosby	\$ 85	\$ 70
Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne	\$130	\$ 65

Donations in the year 2000 were used, in Bastard & South Burgess for the purchase of High Volume Fittings for their tanker and pumper trucks so they can deliver more water faster; in South Crosby for training and purchase of equipment; and in Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne toward the two-year project nearing its goal of a Boat Pump which will enable the attack on fires from the water side of shore and island properties. LBLA was presented a plaque in December in recognition of donations to the Delta Volunteer Firefighters Association totaling \$3,144 to date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Returning to the traditional LBLA schedule, elections for all officers will be held at the Annual Meeting on July 18. If you wish to stand for an office, please indicate on the Registration Form.

Thank you for your support. Have a happy and safe season. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on Wednesday, July 18 at 7 pm at the United Church in Delta.

Don Santos, LBLA President ®