



SLAPOA Newsletter Spring 2021

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello, everyone! I hope you have made it successfully through this difficult year and that you either have a vaccine or can get one soon so we can return to a more normal social life at the Lake. I have been able to spend a few wonderful weeks at the cottage in May before bug season. Hopefully, you have plans to spend time at your place soon.

Silversands development and expansion

Since our December update it has come to our attention that the Silversands Resort is proceeding with development to increase capacity. Capacity was already increased last summer and there are concerns that there may be more dwellings on the property than it is zoned for. Several cottagers on Little Lane have submitted complaints to the town of Kearney recently because last summer Silversands guests trespassed on their private property, damaged their property, and made excessive noise. Your board is working with the neighbours of Silversands to rectify this situation.

Good Neighbour Code

I am very excited about our Good Neighbour Code, which has been much requested by some of you. The Board has worked hard to make a simple and concise card that can be attached to every fridge on the Lake to remind us all about what it takes to be a good neighbour. We hope that your concerns have been included. You can see a preview of the card in this newsletter.

Blueberry Island Update

The situation with Blueberry Island is essentially unchanged. No new LPAT hearing date has been set yet. I continue to follow up with the town of Kearney lawyer, Ed Veldboom, regularly to get a date set. SLAPOA has submitted their arguments to the lawyer to be included in the case documentation. We have also submitted a summary of all the 46 letters that SLAPOA members wrote to Kearney on this topic in 2019 to be included in the case documentation.

Emerald Island Update

We plan to do some work to make improvements on Emerald Island. New signs will be posted at each end of the Island to replace the faded signs that have been there for years. We plan to replace the current flagpole with a taller one since last year the existing pole broke and we had to shorten it. I am looking forward to working on these projects with anyone who would like to volunteer.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Last year we were, unfortunately, unable to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) due to Covid-19. This year we recognize that we need to hold an AGM meeting in some format because there are several issues that require input from our membership. We have set the date as **Saturday, September 18, 2021** so please put that in your calendars. We have not settled on a format yet, partly because of the continuing Covid-19 situation. If we have an online meeting, there will be people who have difficulty with computer access, but an in-person meeting poses problems with social distancing and travel. We are hoping that by waiting until September there will be more people vaccinated, fewer Covid-19 cases and a less restrictive provincial Covid-19 policy. We hope this would allow us to hold an in-person meeting with a provision for anyone who cannot be at the meeting to attend via Zoom. We will let you know as soon as we have a plan.

In closing, I hope you all have a great summer and that you can spend as much time as possible in the Sand Lake area.

Sincerely,

John Kelly
SLAPOA Chair



Are you allowed to camp on Emerald Island?

For at least the past 25 years there has been no sign on the Island prohibiting camping. The current sign states, “Leave no trace camping”, which implies that camping is allowed. However, on several occasions over the years, the SLAPOA Board has passed resolutions stating that camping on the Island is not permitted. If you talk to long time Sand Lake property owners around the Lake, however, you will hear some who say that camping on the Island has never been allowed, while others say that camping has always been permitted. There has been some ambiguity on the subject for a long time and many cottagers can remember spending a night on the Island.

Last summer, someone staying at Silversands camped out on Emerald Island for several days and made it difficult for SLAPOA members to use the Island. When the Association learned of the situation, I paddled out to the Island and spoke with the camper who agreed to leave the next day. I told him the property was owned by SLAPOA and that we did not allow camping. I gave him a copy of the SLAPOA promotional brochure, which states that camping on Emerald Island is not allowed.

After this incident, many people expressed opinions and asked questions about the incident on the Sand Lake Facebook page and it became clear that there has been a great deal of misunderstanding related to Emerald Island.

As a result of these events, the Board agreed that signage on the Island had to be changed to

clearly indicate that the Island is private property owned by SLAPOA and one that clearly states our position on camping. In making the SLAPOA position clear on a sign, the Board did not want to fully eliminate a tradition by some property owners of allowing their kids an overnight camping experience. After discussing the issue at length over two meetings, the Board agreed to a sign that read, “Only SLAPOA members may camp for at most one night with a maximum group size of 6 people”. We announced this decision in our winter update to members.

Subsequently, some members expressed concern that the Board had made a unilateral decision, which changed the rules governing camping on Emerald Island. As result, the Board has decided that the sign on the Island will be changed to say, “No Camping Allowed”. This was a difficult decision, and it is with some regret that we cannot allow the occasional camping experience on the island, but the board felt that with the increasing popularity of Sand Lake and the difficulty finding suitable camping spots elsewhere, there is a real danger that the island could become overused as a camping destination.

We hope you will be able to support this change in our thinking.

John Kelly, Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sand Lake Regatta – August 21

Sailboat Race - July 31 - Dewars Beach

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sept 18

Location and Format To Be Determined

Given the current and evolving pandemic conditions/regulations, the Board made the decision to push back the dates for the Annual Sand Lake Regatta as well as the SLAPOA AGM.

The Sailboat Race is tentatively scheduled to proceed; however, should there be a change we will notify the membership by July 1st.

Details regarding the location and/or format of the AGM will be relayed to our Members in the coming weeks.



INFORMATION LINKS

Below are some links we have compiled for your convenience.

If you have any additional links or helpful resources you would like to share, please send them along to: info@slapoa.ca

Sand Lake Area Property Owners Association

<https://slapoa.ca/>

COVID-19

Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Ontario

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

For Travellers

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>

Cottage Related

Town of Kearney

<https://townofkearney.ca/>

Kearney Wetlands Environmental Foundation

<http://www.kwef.ca/>

Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations

<https://foca.on.ca/>

<https://foca.on.ca/covid-19-update-from-foca/>

Opening Tips

<https://foca.on.ca/cottage-opening-tips/>

Septic Systems

<https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/guideline-f-9-use-holding-tanks-sewage-systems>

Health Links

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/health-care-ontario>

<https://www.mahc.ca/en/>

<https://www.almaguin-health.org/>

<https://cmha.ca/>



Invasive Phormites

Phragmites Australis is an invasive non-native reed grass that has established itself in and around the shores of Lake Bernard. It may be on your lake shoreline and, if so, you will want to identify it and remove it quickly. If it goes unchecked, it will cause property owners' shoreline to fill in and natural plants to disappear. Further, the loss of biodiversity will cause additional stress to the natural ecosystem around the Lake. It is currently being removed, as well, on Eagle Lake by the Eagle Lake Conservation Association. We need volunteers to survey Sand Lake to determine our exposure to this reed grass so we can put in place a plan to remove it.

More information is available at <https://georgianbay-forever.org/invasive-phragmites/> and www.invading-species.com

Good Neighbour Code

Over the course of the last two years, in consultation with members of the Sand Lake community, and drawing upon the examples from other cottage community organizations, the SLAPOA Board developed a Good Neighbour Code. The purpose of these guidelines is to remind our members (and the broader vacationing community) that we must all respectfully share this wonderful community and environment.

Sand Lake is a great place to vacation, live and enjoy the natural environment. We share a wonderful neighborhood and strive to make each other's experience at Sand Lake more enjoyable by adopting a shared set of rules... a good neighbour code.

AS GOOD NEIGHBOURS WE WILL:

- respect the Lake and the surrounding natural environment, as well as the waters-edge, which includes not polluting, clearing up garbage and debris [including our pet poop!]
- respect the local fire regulations, which include a ban on fireworks and ensuring that campfires are completely out before you leave them.
- respect safe boating rules and regulations, which include having a boating license, safety equipment and not driving your motorized boats and PWC's close to shore.
- respect the rules of the road and trails, which include not riding or driving ATV's or off-road vehicles on private property or in the Lake.
- respect our neighbour's peaceful enjoyment at the Lake, which includes keeping noise to a minimum, not playing loud music, partying or having bright lights shining late at night.
- respect other people's property and space, which includes not using our neighbour's rafts, docks, or beaches without their permission.
- respect beach etiquette, which means not lounging in front of other people's property or leaving toys, sculptures, boats or holes on the shared beachfront.
- respect the wildlife, which includes ducks and loons in the water and also local fishing and hunting regulations.

Passages

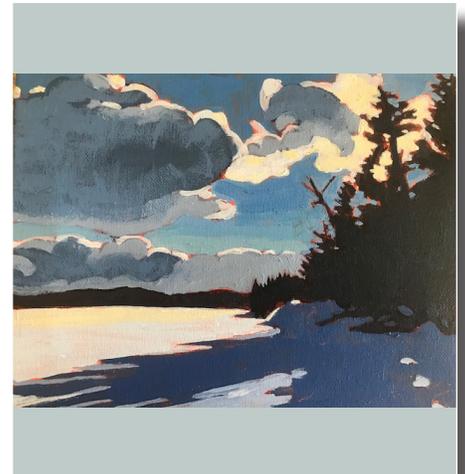
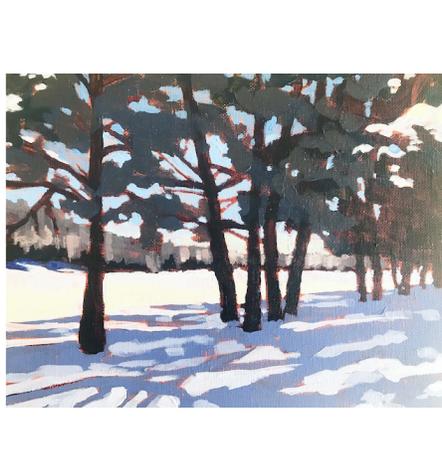
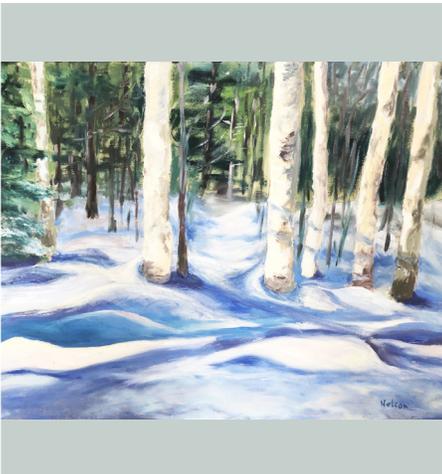
Early this spring, SLAPOA and the entire Sand Lake Community lost a significant member with the passing of William (Bill) Matson on March 30. For many years Bill was a very engaged member of SLAPOA serving as its Chair (when it was called the Produdfoot Township Property Owners Association) as well as a long time coordinator of the annual Turkey Shoot. In addition to his involvement with the Association, Bill was also very active in the Sand Lake Log Church and would often host the church picnic on his lawn at the cottage.



In recognition of the special contributions he made to the life and vibrancy of the Sand Lake we've included his obituary from the St. Catherines Standard:

"William (Bill) of Niagara Falls, passed away peacefully with his loving wife Heather Ann Matson (nee Jane) by his side on March 30, 2021. Born in Niagara Falls on March 18, 1939 to William A. and Doris Matson. Bill was predeceased by his previous wife Marjorie (nee Wilkie) with whom he shared 40 wonderful years. Loving father of Sharon Lorene Matson (Heather Thomson) of Bedford, NS; Heather Marie Matson, Toronto; William Glen Matson (Tina), Niagara Falls; Scott Jane (Kathy), Thorold; Tammi Jane, Port Robinson; and Jacqueline Shaver (Don), t. Catharines. Loving brother to his two sisters Dorothy Morgan (Mike) and Marilyn Woodruff (Rick), and two brothers Robert Matson (Lynn) and David Matson (Jennifer), and brother-in-law to Brian Boese (Rita), Lee Boese (Gina) and Doug Boese (Val). Bill will be fondly remembered by his seven grandchildren, Spencer, Tyler, Emily, Caleb, Alison, Amanda, Brandon (Genevieve) and one great grandchild, Abigail. For several years Bill was a highly respected deacon spending many hours building Rolling Meadows Bible Church with a foundation of love and support. Bill believed in giving the gift of life and in his 82 years he donated over 100 whole blood donations. The Sand Lake (Kearney, Ontario) community will always hold a special place in their hearts for Bill. Special thanks to the staff of the Millennium Trail Manor Nursing Home in Niagara Falls for their great care."

Through the fall and winter many people made Sand Lake their home keeping themselves busy with projects, crafts, drawing, photographing and painting our beautiful surroundings. We have featured a few works from some of those individuals. We welcome all SLAPOA members to share their works that capture the special character of the Sand Lake Community.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/slapoa>



**Photos and paintings courtesy of:
Jill Howard, Sharon McKenzie and Sue Nelson**

FACES OF THE SLAPOA BOARD (20-21)

		Position	Term End
	John Kelly	Chair	2023
	Sharon McKenzie	Secretary	2021
	Geoff Hall	Vice-Chair	2022
	Wilson Boynton	Director	2022
	Dennis Hons	Treasurer	2021



BULLETIN

As a result of the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing pandemic, **the 2021 Kearney Regatta has been cancelled.**

In 2020, the Town of Kearney commissioned a Building Condition Assessment of the Community Centre and Town Offices located at 8 Main Street. The final assessment report, which was submitted to Council and officially received on January 8, 2021, found that after more than thirty years of continual use the main building, surrounding structures and property were in fair to poor condition. As a result of the findings, the Town has established a committee (Kearney Community Centre Building Committee) to review the assessments findings, consult with the community and stakeholders and to propose future action. The full report is available at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Rb3vYDudytkuNTh_cQhHZH0mFLw9qEP

The construction of Cashmans Creek Bridge is now completed and fully open.

Have you remembered to renew your membership?

If not, we ask that you send in your membership dues at your earliest convenience. Annual fees are \$40 per individual.

Contact Dennis Hons at: treasurer@slapoa.ca for details.



Thank you for your continued support.