

TO ALL LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS in ADDINGTON HIGHLANDS AND NORTH FRONTENAC

On May 21st a historic meeting was held in Denbigh with representatives of Skootamatta, Shelldrake, Mazinaw and Weslemkoon Lakes to examine areas of mutual interest and potential co-operation. We found several:

- Participation in the updates of the Official Plans for the Townships of AH and NF,
- Lake Management Plans for each of the three lake areas
- The Municipal election this Fall , the joint need for a Candidates Questionnaire and Town Hall meetings and the focus of lake residents upon voter registration,
- Support for economic development in the community through the marshalling of intellectual resources and experience held by seasonal and full time lake residents.

These are quite ambitious, but with work and goodwill, many are achievable through co-operation and good communication.

However, an issue of immediate concern to lower Addington Highlands (AH) and North Frontenac (NF) was the proposal for Mazinaw- Lanark Forest Inc (MLFI), with the consent of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), in the near future, to carry out extensive logging on Crown Lands near all the lakes in this area. After preliminary but intensive investigation, which only heightened the concern, a committee was formed: Addington Highlands and North Frontenac Logging Committee, (AH&NFLC) to act on behalf of the lake residents in this area.

Gordon Birnie, a Director of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association (SDRA) Gordon.Birnie@sympatico.ca, and Steve Smart, President of the Mazinaw Property Owners Association (MPOA) stevesmart@explornet.com, have agreed to be Co-Chairs of AH&NFLC. This Committee is seeking further participation by other area lake representatives and/or concerned lake residents. Please contact either Co-Chair to express your interest and willingness to assist.

The AH&NFLC is well aware of the benefits of logging to this community and the historic nature of such. However, logging must co-exist with other activities and priorities in the community and the impact of certain kinds of logging upon the biodiversity, the creeks, streams and wetlands of the area are little understood but MUST be examined. It is the intent of the AH&NFLC to insist upon reasonable buffer zones to protect both the 'line of sight'/logging construction/destruction AND the biodiversity aspects of the Crown Lands subject to the cutting proposal.

ON SATURDAY JUNE 12TH, MLFI AND MNR ARE HOLDING AN OPEN HOUSE IN CLOYNE FROM 10AM to 3PM AT THE BARRIE TOWNSHIP HALL. WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND. See www.skootamatta.ca for more information on this meeting and for progress reports.

In any event, we ask that you reserve judgement and support the negotiation activity of the AH&NFLC over the next several months.

NO ONE IS AS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT AS ALL OF US ARE, AND IT IS UP TO US TO PROTECT IT

AH&NFLC