

Lanark OPP/ Lake Associations Spring Meeting
Wed. May 1, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.
Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Road

Attending:

OPP Constable Dave Blair (Lanark CSO), OPP Marine Officer Constable Byron Newell

Lake Associations - Terry and Judy Kennedy (Kennebec Lake), Murray and Karen Hunt (Otty Lake), Taro Alps (Greater Bobs and Crow Lake), Larry Arpaia (Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes), Gord Welby (Bennett and Fagan Lakes), Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake), Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake)

Thanks extended to Irv Dardick and the Eagle Lake Association for providing the muffins and donuts for the meeting

Regrets:

Eileen Barbeau (Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes), Gordon Hill (Christie Lake), OPP Inspector Gerry Salisbury

OPP Constable Dave Blair expressed regrets from Inspector Salisbury that he was unable to attend the meeting as he had a family medical situation that he was dealing with. The lake reps. asked Dave Blair to pass our thoughts and best wishes to Inspector Salisbury and his family.

- Constable Newell (Marine Coordinator for the Lanark and Sharbot Lake Detachments) will be patrolling the local lakes this summer along with a student assistant. In addition six part-time marine officers will take part in the marine program this summer and the SAVE Program (4 staff) will also be out on the lakes. Constable Newell hopes to be on the water beginning on the May long weekend.
- Constable Blair stressed that it is the Marine Officers who should be contacted regarding marine issues.
- Constable Newell responded to two topics that had been emailed from the lake community prior to the meeting

1) Risks and liabilities of the winter use of bubblers and aerators at docks

Constable Newell noted that there is no law against bubblers – but there is owner liability - property owners installing bubblers must clearly mark the area around the bubbler as a hazard (checking regularly over the winter). Due diligence is important –all steps must be prudently addressed. Property owners should also realize that their insurance probably does not cover this liability.

Constable Blair will look into preparing a media release on this topic. He was referred to an earlier article on this topic that was prepared in the Kawarthas.

Irv Dardick will contact an insurance company to ask for their comments (status, expectation for property owners) including liability if someone was injured or killed from falling through the ice when an aerator was in use

2) Enforcement of speeding boats near shorelines, especially the new wake-board boats which create large wakes which are potentially damaging to shorelines.

Constable Newell indicated that the only regulatory limit for boat speed is the 10/km/hr within 30 metres of shore. Lake residents can post signs to remind boaters of the 10 km/hr limit. This limitation does not apply on rivers and canals and does not apply if boats are considered to be part of a “work” situation e.g. designated slalom course which must be approved and authorized under Navigable Waterways Act. It also does not apply to water skiers and tubers beginning /finishing their run. Call the local OPP detachment if there is an ongoing problem

Note – there are no wake violations possible –just speed violation and distance from shore.

Other discussions:

- There was discussion about marking shoals on a lake – to do or not ... If you install marker buoys and take ownership, you have to take responsibility and meet all the guidelines – placement, insurance, inspections etc - Lake associations interested in learning more about putting out marker buoys as a lake association program can contact Taro Alps at Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes at mandtalps@yahoo.com .
- It was recognized that casual markers (without ownership markers) put out by unidentified individuals can do some good as they do mark hazards (however need to check that they do not get moved or washed away from the hazard)
- Terry Kennedy offered congratulations to the OPP with regard to a recent drug investigation near Kennebec Lake. It was noted that reporting of suspicious activity probably led to the arrests and lake residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity to OPP
- Constable Byron Newell described a **new incentive program** already in place in some other areas in Ontario BUT NOT LOCALLY. This program **encourages the wearing of life jackets by children –and by adults** - recognizing that most drowning fatalities occur to individuals not wearing a life jacket. With this program, when the OPP stops a boat and finds children or adults wearing a life jacket they are given a reward e.g t-shirt or key fob which reads I GOT CAUGHT WEARING MY LIFE JACKET. If this

program is to get underway locally, it needs funding. There was support from the lake reps represented at the meeting for such a program and the question was raised whether lake associations might be interested in partnering with the OPP to sponsor such a program on their lake. Lake communities to discuss and OPP will be in touch

- Someone else using your boat?
Owner and Operator are both responsible if you are letting someone use your boat. You are legally responsible to ensure that the boater is licensed, has a life jacket and all other safety equipment. A rental agreement requires acknowledgement of all these points (see Transport Canada's Rental Boat Safety Checklist). The checklist will be found on the Transport Canada website
- Americans in Canada 45 days or more, must follow Canadian legislation re boating. If their visit is for less than 45 days, they follow legislation of their own state. OPP are aware of legislation in other jurisdictions
- Boating liquor licensing violations are always looked at under Ontario legislation and are treated exactly the same as licensing violations while driving a car including impaired driving charges. N.B. If you are prohibited from driving a boat, this charge can also prohibit you from driving your car
- Competency cards are needed for driving any powered vessel even a canoe with a 5 horsepower trolling motor
- Question from Lake rep – why/how can people still setting off fireworks when there is a fire ban – to be addressed with Fire Dept. Suggestion – set up lake associations mtg with fire dept (similar to OPP/lake associations mtg. to discuss questions re fire safety responsibilities
- Gord Welby (Bennett and Fagan Lakes) reported that their Cottage Watch Program is up and running. All signs are now in place and lake residents will be given Cottage Watch window decals along with their memberships

Next OPP/Lake Associations meeting

- Fall meeting – Karen will discuss with Inspector Salisbury in early Fall and provide info to members of the Lake Networking Group
- OPP to host
- Date and location to be confirmed