

▶ PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW .....	1	▶ 2009 MEETINGS .....	1
▶ GREEN COTTAGER AWARD .....	1	▶ COTTAGE HISTORY BOOK .....	1
▶ MEMBERSHIP .....	1	▶ FUND RAISERS .....	2
▶ NATIVE TREE & SHRUBS .....	1	▶ GOVERNANCE .....	2
▶ WATER QUALITY & INITIATIVES .....	1		

SPRING 2009

# RIL LAKE

## Residents Association

### President's Overview

*I think all of us are tired of the 'bad' news lately. Now it's time for the good news..... the summer of 2009 is just around the corner, and this is a time for us all to take in the splendor of our Ril Lake and forget about these burdens of worry over the last year. It's time to relax, play and enjoy.*

Paul Priest

### Cottage Life

#### Green Cottager Award

The mighty Casey has done it again. As runner-up, Casey Cook was presented with the Green Cottager Award of Merit at the Spring Cottage Life Show. To the surprise of the people at Cottage Life Magazine, the presentation was attended by a large contingent from Ril Lake. Approximately 40 Ril Lakers were at the stage in support of Casey. Congratulations Casey!



### 2009 Meetings



#### DOCKTALK

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am  
1005 Watson Road

#### AGM

Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>  
Time & location TBA

### Membership

Our membership is growing to renewed levels of health. In 2008 we had 104 "Paid" members or roughly 58% of our cottage/residents population.

It's time to pay your 2009 membership as soon as possible. Please complete the attached membership form and mail it to June Crittenden along with your \$20 payment.

### Water Quality & Initiatives

Progress in revitalizing lake water quality is like trying to turn a battleship in harbour. It takes time, patience, and positive proactive initiatives. The top line results from the August 2008 data indicate that Ril Lake has reversed its direction of deterioration, and is now beginning to heal. *Ril Lake is now just below threshold limits.* Thanks to Casey Cook and the many volunteers who have pitched in to make this happen. Casey will be giving us more information and details at the AGM in August.

## BOATERS EXAM



The deadline for everyone to have their "Pleasure Craft Operators Card" is September 15, 2009. Ann Matheson, 1160 North Ril Lake Road, offers training courses and will administer the exam for anyone who is interested. Ann can be reached by phone at 705.767.3055.

### Ril Lake Cottage History Book

This unique project has been in the works for two years now and will provide a literary and photographic legacy of Ril Lake and how it has touched the lives of our families. Dianne More is once again asking all of us to provide stories and pictures as source material for this book. Please make this a priority and have your family's story submitted by September of this year. Dianne can be reached by phone at 704.767.2215 or by email at [addcmore@sympatico.ca](mailto:addcmore@sympatico.ca)



## NATIVE TREE & SHRUB SALE

The Muskoka Heritage Foundation is again having their annual Native Tree & Shrub Sale. You can order your plants online, by fax, or mail. The sale runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.muskokaheritage.org](http://www.muskokaheritage.org) and click on the "Native Plant Sale" icon for a list of plants, payment methods, etc. Casey Cook will take care of your plants until you can pick them up at her cottage. This is a great way to help Mother Nature cleanse herself of the toxins and pollutants which have become mankind's unknowing legacy.

## Fund Raisers

### Clothing

Thanks to Judy Felton (Smith), we raised \$326 for the Ril Lake Association. That was 16% of our total revenue stream for 2008. Judy is the coordinator of our new line of cottage apparel. The new Ril Lake logo or other message can be embroidered on your clothing. To see the product line, go to [www.cottagelakeapparel.com](http://www.cottagelakeapparel.com) and click on the "Find your Lake" icon. Determine your selection and then forward the order to Judy at 1038 Ril Cove Rd or by phone at 705.767.3059 or by email at [jlsfjs@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsfjs@hotmail.com). The orders will be submitted once 20 items, collectively from around the lake, have been received. Cottage Lake Apparel will rebate 20% of the order cost to the Ril Lake Residents Association. It's a WIN / WIN situation: you get unique clothing while supporting our association.

### Caribbean Cruise

Since the Apparel fundraiser was so successful, Judy has organized a Caribbean Cruise. See the attached "Flyer" or go to the Ril Lake web site at [www.rillake.ca](http://www.rillake.ca) for more details.

## Governance

Last year, a 'Resolution' to set constitutional bylaws for the governance of the Ril Lake Association was put to the Ril Lake community, paid & unpaid members alike.

The result, from an overwhelming majority of our members, was on the 'Nay' side.

Given our ongoing and growing disappointment with our federal, provincial, and municipal governments, this result was no surprise. "*We (Ril Lakers) don't want any more government in any shape or form.*" Instead, it seems "we", the Ril Lake Association members, prefer a more 'soft' association, whereby our guidance and governance comes from within our volunteer base. *This model of governance is more along the lines of a Foundation, Advocacy, or Information Forum.*

This informal style of governance can only be guided by the moral and ethical beliefs of a few. Although we may assume responsibility for certain issues and initiatives, we have no authority to enforce change or compliance. We must rely on education, discussion, and co-operation.

The Ril Lake democratic process is strong, and it has chosen 'Informal Advocacy' vs. 'Formal Governance'.

It still remains however, that *the Ril Lake Association does not have an active Constitution or Bylaws* to guide and govern its activities!

Paul Priest, President

### Website

ELDON SETAIH HAS BEEN DOING A REMARKABLE JOB AS WEBMASTER. PLEASE VISIT OUR SITE AT [HTTP://WWW.RILLAKE.CA](http://www.rillake.ca) AND PROVIDE ELDON WITH ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS THAT YOU THINK COULD IMPROVE THIS VALUABLE COMMUNICATION TOOL.

### TO DO LIST

1. order native plants & shrubs
2. pay your 2009 membership dues
3. contribute to the history book
4. mark Docktalk & the AGM on your calendar
5. have a great spring and we will see you all, this summer, enjoying paradise on Ril Lake

### 2009 Ril Lake Calendar of Events

APR	1	Native Plant & Shrub Sale begins
MAY	4	Native Plant & Shrub Sale ends
	16	Benthic Testing [tentative]
JUN		
JUL	4	Docktalk – 10:00 am
AUG	1	AGM - TBA
	2	Benthic Testing
		Sailing Regatta – TBA
SEP	19	TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up