

Ril Lake Association:
Fall 2007 Newsletter & Membership Drive

Dear Ril Lakers,

Another wonderful summer at Ril Lake comes to a close. Ril Lake may not be paradise, but you can see it from there. It's the elements of paradise at Ril Lake (Water Quality & Shorelines), that we as Ril Lakers must do our utmost to preserve and improve upon.

On the Labour Day weekend there was a creosote / oil slick on the water & shoreline at the end of Watson's Rd. It is critical that we locate the source of this contamination and eliminate it as soon as possible. There are a number of possibilities for the source of this substance, from creosoted railway ties for steps or retaining walls, to leaching from the sinking boat house in "Green's Bay".

Under no circumstances should wood preserving products be in, or near the water.

At the AGM this past summer there was a **"Call to Action"** presented to all Ril Lakers.

This call for participation has steadily gathered momentum. From the new "***Annual Dock Talk***" meeting at the Witticks after the AGM, to the fantastic job done by Association Reps in re-building our membership, and the tremendous effort being put forward by Casey Cook in her efforts to champion Ril Lake water quality back to acceptable levels.

We all can contribute and keep informed through the Ril Lake web site (www.rillake.ca) which has been revived, expanded and maintained thanks to the diligent work of Eldon Setaih.

Our **Association paid membership (at 60%) is now near an all time high**. Leading the way is North Ril Lk. Rd./ Muskoka Bob Rd. / James Pt. Rd., all at 83% paid membership. This is followed by McArthur Pt. & South Ril Lk. Rd. at 63%, Watson Rd. 43%, and Ril Cove 33%.

The Ril Lake Association needs a critical mass (Paid Membership) of 66% + in order to operate effectively.

For those of you who are paid members, please take the time and effort to encourage friends and neighbours on Ril to complete the "Contact Sheet" (www.rillake.ca , click "membership") and mail it to June Crittenden along with a cheque for \$10 payable to "Ril Lake Association". Emails and the web site will become the primary method of communication for cost efficiencies and logistical reasons.

Make a concerted effort and commitment to become a positive contributor to our little Ril Lake paradise.

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Some of **OUR** (Ril Lakers) endeavors for the upcoming year are;

- to meet earlier in the summer along with a follow-up AGM mid summer, at Witticks to provide more opportunities to share ideas and generate progress on key issues like water quality & shorelines. (*Lake Steward: Casey Cook, email: rilcasey@sympatico.ca, Res. (705) 767-2215*)
- Test lake water more frequently and utilize more lake quality parameters to augment the “Secchi Tests” (Water Clarity).
- To reduce Ril Lake phosphorous levels form the current “overtheshold” level of 9-10 micrograms / litre to an acceptable 5.5 – 8.25 micrograms / litre, and maintain acceptable levels on an ongoing basis.
- Re-institute the “Proxy” method of membership voting for those who can not attend the AGM.
- Encourage less artificial lighting around the lake to improve viewing conditions of “Night Skies”
- Improve effectiveness of Septic Tanks around the lake where applicable. Results of LOB (“Bose”) septic tank audit over past 5 years !
- Gather historical information & pictures about Ril Lake from anyone wishing to contribute pictures, dates, and related stories. This information will then be compiled into a format that can be viewed and shared by all.(*Forward information to, or contact Diane More, email: adcmore@sympatico.ca, Res.(905) 294-7766, Cottage: (705) 767-2215*)

Let’s all try to be informed, contribute, and keep in touch throughout the year.

To one and all. Have a great winter and best wishes for the holiday season

Yours Truly,

Paul Priest

President, Ril Lake Association

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