

# Town of Kearney Sand Lake Area Property Owners Association

Incorporated 1958

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21



SLAPOA 2010-11 Chairman  
Robert Goodings

There's something special about going to the cottage. It is a place for family to gather, share special memories and relax from the weeks stressful pressures.

As chairman of the Sand Lake Area Property Owners Association (SLAPOA) I would like to welcome you back for another season.

Our Association presently exceeds 170 members, our vision is our commitment to community, environment, education and special family activities across the Association.

Starting June 15th, 2011 we will be embarking on a SLAPO Membership Drive.

Placed on the doorstep of your cottage you will find a complete membership package outlining the benefits of the membership; the strategic plan, associated memberships in larger organizations protecting watersheds, assisting in being a watchdog against raising taxes, and representing you as a cottage owner in Kearney Town counsel issues and well as Ontario wide.

Finally, as a community connection we organize special family activities to bring you together and share in some good fun!

There are over 250,000 cottagers in Ontario and our Sand Lake Area Property Owners Association can make sure your voice is counted among them. Become part of the solution to ensure a healthy future for Sand Lake.

Keep an eye out for the package, we value your input, so please join us!

For more info on SLAPOA call: Robert Goodings  
Chairman 705.636-7998 (summer) or  
membership@slapoa.ca

Dave Matson Past President,  
Newsletter/communication at matson@slapoa.ca

**Stay tuned for the next newsletter on updates on these topics and programs:**

- Environment – lake quality tests, waste management
- Update on recreation- boat ramp issue
- Activities around the lake and Kearney
- Planning issues on the lake Political affairs- Town meetings

## Calendar of Events Count down to Summer!!

### Black Fly Sale

Saturday May 21, 2011 (9am – 2pm)  
Kearney Community Centre

### Kearney Lobster Dinner

Friday July 1st

### Creative Changes Art Show and Sale

Friday July 8th (7pm -9:30pm) \$5.00 admission

Saturday July 9th (10am-5pm)

Sunday July 10th (10am-3pm)

### Sand Lake Family Day (Regatta)

Saturday July 16th (1pm)

*note: this is not the traditional date*

Dinsmore's Beach

### Sailing Regatta

Saturday July 30th (1pm)

Dewars Beach

### SLAPOA AGM

Saturday Aug. 13th

### Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

Sunday October 9th (1pm)

Fetterley's Field

**For additional information concerning SLAPOA and informative external links:**

- FOCA (Federation of Cottage Associations) <http://www.foca.on.ca/>
- WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) <http://www.wraft.com/home.php>
- Magnetawan River Watershed Association <http://www.cecebewaterways.ca/mrwa/index.php>
- Algonquin Eco-Watch <http://www.algonquin-eco-watch.com/>

- Town of Kearney <http://www.townofkearney.com/siteengine/activepage.asp>
- Almaguin Highlands [www.almaguinhighlands.com/almaguin/communities/kearney.html](http://www.almaguinhighlands.com/almaguin/communities/kearney.html)

### Tips for Good Septic System Health Penny Pepperell

- Use less water. Your septic system or leaching pit can handle only so much. If you're thinking of buying a new washing machine, the front loaders use a good deal less water and they clean better. Try and space your loads over several days to reduce load stress.
- Try no soap for a change. If you have ever noticed that when you turn on the washing machine, your clothes are sudsy before you've added soap, you have a soap residue build up. Try using a cycle without adding any more and get rid of that residue that is dulling your clothes and wearing down the fibres.
- Non-phosphate products are best when they are also chlorine free and bio-degradable in less than one month. Look for the Environment Canada logo and be sure you purchase has passed certification tests.
- Septic systems. Under normal usage, septic tanks should be inspected and/or pumped out every three to five years. Seasonal cottages can stretch that timeline somewhat. However, it is important to note that while septic systems are effective in controlling bacterial pollution, they cannot be relied on to prevent nutrients such as phosphates from making their way to the water.
- No flushing tampons, pads, dental floss, cat litter, band-aids, condoms, wrappers, paper towels down your toilet because they can build up and block either your septic drain or the drain field itself. This could lead to a diversion of septic water away from the drain field, the leeching of contaminated sludge into your drain field, or a complete blockage. Never put toxic or hazardous wastes such as points, thinners, waste oils down the drain and never flush prescription or over-the-counter drugs down the toilet.

**The Kearney Community Centre**, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in the Millennium, houses the municipal offices, library, seniors room and banquet facilities.

Annual events include the Blackfly Festival, Creative Changes Art Show, Sand Lake Regatta, Kearney Regatta, Kearney Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, Christmas Fun Fair and Craft Sale, the Kearney Dog Sled Races, Sand Lake Thanksgiving Sunday Turkey Shoot. Visits can be made to the restored pioneer log church at Sand Lake as well as many other points of interest along the way.

Calendar for 2011	Community Activities
• Boat Safety testing	July
• Emergency Response	July
• Fire Prevention	August
• Bears, bates & Radies	August / Location TBA

### TOWN HALL MEETING - MARCH 12, 2011

Councillor and Deputy Mayor Art Murdy Chaired Meeting

All Council present (except Councillor Ken Ball) Clerk-Administrator present. Councillor Barry Dingwall took notes of various speakers' questions. About 50 residents were present including SLAPOA representatives Dave Matson, Carolyn Stobo and Bob Goodings.

After the short Council Meeting Mayor Tomlinson opened the Town Hall Meeting.

He invited the residents to pose questions to councillors.

The following notes were taken by Bob Goodings as an observer of the meeting.

#### Question 1. Resident

#### **Raised question about how you get informed about meetings**

Response. Clerk responded- it is posted on Town website - general schedule for regular meetings - every 3rd Friday, except Good Friday when it has been moved to Thursday and she could call office to find out about Special Meetings.

#### Question 2. Resident

#### **Inquired about West Bay Road Bridge.**

Councillor Louise Wadsworth confirmed all bridges inspected by engineers for town - would be prioritized in course of inspection/review relative to other bridges requiring work.

#### Question 3. Resident

#### **Raised issues related to budgets and Official Plan and Zoning By-law review.**

Louise Wadsworth confirmed the OP and Zoning By-Laws are scheduled for review starting this year - it is being put in this year's budget (assuming it is approved) - Public input is part of the process - public and lake associations will be notified.

#### Question 4. Resident

#### **Requested information on whether there will be repairs/replacement of Sand Lake Boat Ramp and Town Dock.**

Councillor Louise Wadsworth confirmed that council would wait till snow melts then determine condition of Boat Ramp and assess need for repair or more costly work - the Town Dock is already on the plan to be done.

Councillor Steve Sainsbury confirmed that council was moving toward completion of the Ralph Bice Centre.

Mayor Paul Tomlinson reported that the original Principal of the Graphite Mine has relinquished his interest. The Mayor didn't know at this point what impact that might have on whether the new principal continues to contemplate future use or opening of mine.

**Question 6. Resident asked about whether Council was cutting the public works budget and possibly risking public safety.**

Councillor Louise Wadsworth confirmed there was the capital side and operating side - on the operating side, Council was asking for work smarter initiatives but no lessening of repairs to roads, etc.

**Question 7. Resident Asked about whether Council considering Jan. 1, 2011 Ontario Building Code/Act changes that now allow Councils to look at issues related to maintenance of on-site sewage systems.**

Councillor Steve Sainsbury confirmed that the Environment and By-law Enforcement Committee will be looking at various matters, as newly constituted, including the possibility of regulations related to maintenance of on-site sewage systems.

**Question 8. Resident Very concerned about the apparent inaccuracy of MPAC's values in Kearney and wants a request for a full review of Kearney as a pilot project by MPAC - says some places on Grass Lake under assessed and a lot of concerns in Town of Kearney.**

**Question 9. Resident Questions about lack of services here and high taxes - could Town attract health care professionals or clinics?**

Councillor Louise Wadsworth confirmed that SEP-SDHC is trying to enhance Burk's Falls Health Centre (but x-ray, blood testing services underutilized there). There was no real likelihood of attracting Health Care to Kearney with such a small population basis.

**Question 10. Resident Questions about whether there is public input in strategic planning exercises of Council. He confirmed he has strategic planning expertise.**

Council said they would forward him a copy of the Strategic Plan developed in 2007 and would appreciate any comments he might have, since it needs review.

**Question 11. Resident Asked about whether Town had knowledge of or inquired about the possibility of a "Nurse Practitioner Program" for the community.**

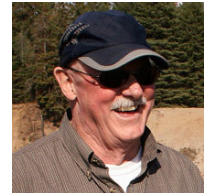
~~~~~  
*The Mayor, and Councillors Steve Sainsbury and Louise Wadsworth all confirmed this review was being put into this year's budget to extend over two years. The Mayor further confirmed there would be an Open House Meeting to discuss the OP and areas of concern and/or approval of existing provisions before a draft is developed.*

## SLAPOA Members that we have passed away over the Winter



**Don Ray:** At the age of 92. Don was a United Church Minister, and enjoyed his time at Sand Lake. Our condolences go out to Joan Dewar and all the Ray family

**Kelvin 'Lou' Fox:** An outstanding man to our association and all of Kearney, especially Proudfoot. Lou was a member of our executive for years, and was always willing to help the community. Our condolences go out to Lynn and family.



**Noreen More:** At the age of 92. Known as one of Sand Lakes' Grand Ladies. Our condolences go out to families of Katherine, Randy, Jane.

### Council Update

By Councilor Steve Sainsbury with additional items from Councilor Barry Dingwall

From Steve Sainsbury:

The bottom line as of today (April 15, 2001):

- A 0% tax rate increase. (Taking property reassessments into account, 57% of you will see a tax reduction averaging \$27, and 35% will see an increase averaging \$25. The remaining 8% have larger variations.)
- Increased funding for roads and bridges
- New funding to start the review of the Official Town Plan
- A note of caution: We have just learned that our contract with Perry Township for shared Chief Building Officer services will not be renewed. This was their decision based upon their own internal situation. We will now have to recruit our own CBO. This will have an impact on the budget until we can make the necessary changes to optimize this position.
- Audit results for 2009 have finally been completed. The good news is we had an approximately 114k surplus. Our 2010 audit should be finalized by June.
- Check out the revised Tariff and Fees Schedule on the town WEB site. Council will be voting on

the changes at the next meeting.

- The Lords Prayer that was recited at the beginning of the Council meetings has been discontinued. This practice was in contravention of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
  - Council has just approved a Service review of all Town Service. I will work with our Town Clerk to achieve the following objectives:
    - Assess our service levels and costs
    - Identify areas to reduce cost and improve service
    - Set service standards
    - Develop ongoing monitoring and measurement capability
    - Communicate to the public where we are and where we are going
    - Publish results to the public
- Email me if you have any questions or concerns. (stevesainsbury1@gmail.com)  
Much work has been done. Much more is needed!

Some additional items from Barry Dingwall

- Inauguration on Dec 04, 2010 was followed by several days of training for new councillors between swearing-in and mid Feb. 2011.
- In addition we have held 6 council meetings and have managed to accomplish/deal with numerous important items, some of which have made the voters happy and some of which have not.

#### HERE ARE SOME OF THE HOT BUTTON ITEMS / ITEMS OF INTEREST

- 5 year lease agreement with MNR for lease of their office space (Algonquin Park permits office)
- Change in meeting times to 7 p.m. every 3rd Friday from mid-week and mid-day
- Re-introduced question period
- Re-introduced move from ballot box to mail-in ballot or other options that may become available between now and next vote
- Signed a new deal for town insurance
- Endeavoured to reduce and streamline committees
- Council will act as committee of adjustment.
- Service delivery review as mentioned by Steve
- A committee review will be conducted prior to end of Dec 2011.
- Town Hall meeting held Mar 12, 2011
- Numerous budget meetings
- Long-term road plan developed by Public works Mgr. & foreman
- We have a great By-Laws and Environment Committee with a priority on looking at septic testing and maintenance.
- We are presently exploring Wind Energy projects for Kearney.
- Councillor Louise Wadsworth continues to work with a group from Burks Falls re: the hospital

closure there and making other options available.

- We will have a new business in town this summer "SUDS ON MAIN", a combination bar and Laundromat.

In general we have a very good and diverse council that bring various skills and backgrounds to the table. There have been a few bumps along the way in the early stages but we are learning the ropes. We have had good support from the staff and they have done some very good work for us. Lots of work remains to be done and there are many challenges to face.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the summer.

My email address is: barryinbarrie@yahoo.ca



#### 2010/2011 Board of Directors

Bob Goodings, Dave Matson, Jen Dewar,  
Penny McClure, Anne Chetwynd,  
Jeanne de Keyserling, Frank Goodman, and  
Doug Kramer

assisting with communications: Anne Lorriman  
Regatta: Jen Beland

**website: [slapoa.ca](http://slapoa.ca)**

#### Don't forget to update your membership

Mail in your \$30 membership renewal today  
Make cheque payable to:  
Sand Lake Area Property Owners' Association

Mail address – 294 Douglas Drive, Toronto,  
Ontario M4W 2C2

E-mail address - [membership@slapoa.ca](mailto:membership@slapoa.ca)

include your address, email address,  
and telephone numbers