

South Lavant and Robertson Lake Hall Associations

May 2021 Newsletter



The Social Scene

Locked up like jailbirds, our opportunities to socialize are limited to say the least. This situation is leaving lots of time to dream about things we can do when life returns to some sort of normalcy.

I look forward to potluck dinners and getting progressive euchre and the dart league up and running. I look forward to getting together with all of you to watch movies and documentaries and attend exercise classes at the hall.

I have pondered the idea of starting a walking club whereby once a week we choose a destination and take a scenic stroll. As much as I love the scenery here in Lavant, it would be nice to check out scenery elsewhere. I would gladly lead a hike on the Catawaqui Trail at Sydenham Lake. It is lovely there and we could have a picnic lunch at the park afterward. Where could you lead us on a stroll?

The new pickleball court is taking up lots of time and energy these days. We are pleased to report that none of the funds to build this court are coming from money that has already been raised by the community. We are instead using grant money and donations to make it happen. Anyone wanting to donate, please let us know. While we don't have these in the budget, I could see three or four benches inside the fence for spectators and for players wanting a rest (me). The township will be able to issue tax receipts to donors.

We appreciate that the court should not negatively impact the ball diamond and have made sure that the fence around the perimeter of the court will be well beyond the out of bounds territory. If you drive down to the park, you can see the markers for the proposed layout. For now, we plan to have the paved court area (30'X60') with a 10' fence around the perimeter. Project is to be completed by the end of October.

On a final note, we are going to install a couple of outdoor plugins near the court just in case we want to use the court surface for an outdoor dance and need to get instruments plugged in. You never know when we might the urge to dance!

Robertson Lake Hall Association News

At the round table discussion, the Robertson Lake Hall Committee executive identified the following to be their priorities:

Communications with the Township

President Watson and Secretary Fleischer attended a meeting with CEO Ryan Morton and Manager of Facilities and Community Affairs Chelsea Dawes. Items of responsibility as to the management of the park were cleared up with the help of proper documentation. Only one item: the definition of what is defined as the yard and what as the grounds in the park are still under discussion. Setting this aside, a good working relationship between the Township and our committee was established.

The need of an air exchanger for the Hall

The purchase of an air-exchanger was approved at the AGM and will be installed in the spring. The unit is to be purchased through the Township to save the HST and will be installed by Joe Ferguson Heating.

To increase the use of the Robertson Lake Hall with the help of the social committee

The social committee submitted a plan listing various activities to take place inside the hall during the winter months and some, such as movie nights, throughout the whole year.

In support of this, the purchase of a projector and screen were approved by the executive. These items will also be of value to attract different types of hall rentals.

We were able to obtain a sponsorship from Storm Internet, providing us with free installation, a router and unlimited internet access.

To facilitate a better access to the hall, a lockbox was installed.

New Horizon for Seniors Grant

The Township's co-operation as the owners of the property was essential in the submission for this grant. They, as well as the LCHC, (special thanks Ms. Chelsea Dawes and Ms. Kara Symbolic) saw great value in the building of a pickle ball court which, due to the popularity of the sport, easiness of play and a relatively small court size, was our final choice. In March of this year, we learned that we were awarded the top amount this program offers to built a pickle ball court (\$25,000). The social committee together with Bill Watson, who is adding his many years experience as contractor, are now hard at work on this project.

South Lavant Association News

On September 13th, 2020, the newly elected board members met for a "round the table" discussion asking each officer to voice his/her vision and concerns for and about the Association. This concluded that the main points the committee wants to address are:

- The health of the lake and it's surroundings
- Supplying up to date information to our members as well as more broadly to anyone interested in the area
- Communication within the executive
- Increased communication with the membership and increased member involvement with the help of sub committees.

Barbara Sabourin had conducted a survey asking the residents as to what they perceive as the biggest issues on the lake. Answers received were as follows:

1. Boat- and PWC's speed and noise
2. Wakes and resulting erosion of shoreline
3. Weeds
4. ATVs especially on Lavant Mill Road
5. Deforestation - Gypsy Moth

In subsequent meetings we have made in-roads on every one of the identified items.

Creation of Two Sub-Committees

- Social Committee under the lead of Barb Young
- Lake Health Group under the lead of Ryan Kozlowski

The objective of the Lake Health Sub-Committee, is to identify and address concerns that affect the overall health and sustainability of Robertson Lake. The group will work with agencies such as the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, to produce a Lake Management Plan. This plan will look to address topics such as; water level and quality, shoreline erosion, invasive species (plant, animal and fish), water use, fish stocks and climate change. COVID restrictions have slowed progress, however we look forward to making progress on this initiative this summer.

New Treasurer

A warm welcome to Paul Barber, has graciously volunteered to fill the position of SLA treasurer, which was left vacant with the departure of Barb Sabourin. Paul was voted in by the SLA executive and will hold the position until the next AGM (and hopefully longer). Paul brings us a wealth of financial knowledge that we will be drawing upon.

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Newsletter

To keep the membership up to date and provide a forum for Q&A and comments.

Issues of Concern

- We are actively pursuing the Township to change the posted limit to 40 km/h throughout the village.
- Watershed Canada has the program “Love Your Lake “ and we planned to have a representative give us a presentation of their services at our AGM. If hired, they would make an assessment of each waterfront property including the islands and submit the report to the association. Cost would be between \$300 to \$500 for the whole lake.
- The Gypsy Moth is a real threat to our forest and we will search for and pass on as much information as is available to us. See the article circulated last Friday. While some properties might be more affected than others, we all need to be proactive in this.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS TO
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