

# SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

## Association Newsletter

### 2008

We are very excited to introduce several new changes to our association newsletter that will:

1. Keep you better informed
2. Make it easier to donate
3. Save our association money.

### *Here's what's new this year!*

Check out our new website and add it to your favorites list -- [www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org). Our association has been working very hard to find ways to do the items listed above. Under the direction of Sylvan resident Mr. Shane Doyle who, after reading the 2007 newsletter where we mentioned that we would like to develop a web site, called and donated his time to undertake this project. Thank you, Shane, for your insight, leadership and assistance with this project. Highlights from past newsletters, general lake information, and other important links are all part of our new website. By having our own site we will be able to reduce the number of pages of the newsletter that we have been sending out starting with next year's letter, thus saving considerably on printing and mailing cost. This will allow us to invest a larger portion of your donations towards our primary purpose of weed and algae control.

**Also new this year -donations made easier through PayPal.** Many people do on-line banking. PayPal is an easy way to send in your donation. From our website, click on the donations link and you will automatically be taken to our secure online location. Once on the site our user name is [donations@sylvanotter.org](mailto:donations@sylvanotter.org).

**The need for a new fee schedule:** Last summer we received more complaints about our weed problem than we have in any past year. Several factors contributed to the problem: 1) the fact that 2007 was a long hot summer, 2) without a lot of rain last year the lake level dropped to one of the lowest levels it has in many years. This allowed sunlight to penetrate down to more of our lake bottom, which facilitated weed growth, 3) lastly, was the introduction of new algae called Chara. Chara looks like a large nest of weeds. Although one of the easier weeds to control, it still requires funds and chemicals to manage. Bottom line is that our association does not have the funds to treat the lake properly. The donation amount of \$ 45.00 has not been increased for over 10 years. Our association has worked very hard to get more homes and associations to donate instead of continually raising the amount for the residents that do pay. We believe we have done a very good job of getting more contributors as our records indicate. Over these past ten years, we have incurred price increases on 1) the chemicals used as well as the fees to apply the products 2) increased costs of printing and mailing of our newsletter 3) residents have requested that we post the areas that will be sprayed 24 to 48 hours before treatment, which requires additional travel, and man-hours. 4) the state has added a new \$1,500.00 treatment application fee that we didn't have a few years ago. 5) you, the residents, have asked that we manage the goose overpopulation on the lake, so that the county doesn't close our beaches, due to high fecal matter. As you can see we have incurred many fees that come right off the top of the funds we have for weed treatment of our lakes.

Here is something for you to consider. For as long as any of us can remember the Oakland County Boat Club has sponsored the great fireworks display on our lake. OCBC's budget for the fireworks is donation-based and has a similar budget to Sylvan Otter's for weed control. Why will residents donate approximately the same amount of money for one great night of fireworks, yet Sylvan Otter can't get enough donations for an entire summer of great swimming, fishing, boating, tubing, wakeboarding, skiing or just enjoying the beauty of our wildlife and sunsets? We, the residents, have a responsibility of lake and property value management for an entire year. Every one of us needs to ask our neighbors if they have donated and talk to your associations and try to get more compliance by organizing to help us collect more donations. We know these are tough economic times, but we all need to do our part to keep Sylvan and Otter Lakes one of the best lakes in our area. Now that you have more background information, we hope you can see that we are left with no choice but to raise the donation amount to \$ 75.00 for lakefront, canal front, boat owners and \$ 25.00 for families with beach privileges.

**New Donation Schedule for Sylvan and Otter Lake Association:**  
**IF YOU ARE - LAKEFRONT, CANAL FRONT, OR BOAT OWNER Minimum of \$75.00**  
**IF YOU HAVE - BEACH PRIVILEGES Minimum of \$25.00**

### **Treasurer's 2007 Report:**

<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,983.00</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 26,775.00</b>	
<b>Weed Control</b>		<b>\$ 23,378.00</b>
<b>State fees and permits</b>		<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>Postage costs and printing fees</b>		<b>\$ 1,444.00</b>
<b>Goose Management Program</b>		<b>\$ 505.00</b>
<b>Website Registration</b>		<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Misc. Fees</b>		<b>\$ 3.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 26,930.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,829.00</b>	

### **Sylvan / Otter Lakes Association Officers:**

We welcome your comments. Please feel free to contact any one of us or drop us a line on our new email address: "president@sylvanotter.com". We will be glad to answer your questions.

President	Phillip Thomas	248 - 682 - 2894
Vice President	Louis Schimmel	248 - 682 - 8893
Treasure / Secretary	Todd and Shelly Eddy	248 - 682 - 4207
Goose Round - up	Al Payson	248 - 681 - 5564

Please mail your **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** check or use PayPal to send us your donation.

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Sylvan / Otter Lake Association**  
**P.O. Box 136**  
**Keego Harbor, MI 48320**

Please send in your donation as soon as possible as we have already spent \$15,000.00 to treat the lake this year and we have additional areas that need to be treated.

Thank you,

Phil Thomas  
Sylvan Otter Lakes President