

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2011

Well, summer finally arrived and there are several new items to read about in this year's newsletter and on the website. One key topic we all need to be aware of is maintaining our legal lake level despite possible new regulations.

We have a new look and format for our Sylvan Otter Lakes Association (SOLA) web site this year.

First I would like to thank Shane Doyle for his assistance in initially setting up the SOLA web site. Shane's busy schedule does not afford him the time to continue updating the site. Thankfully, another lake resident, Jeff Ignatowski has taken on the project. Jeff redesigned the site and added new sections such as picture of the week. Keep up on all of the latest lake information. Go to www.sylvanotter.org and sign up to have updates sent to your email. The pictures alone will be worth it. Thank you to both Shane and Jeff for all they have done to support SOLA.

Restoring Natural Flow in the Clinton River. Late last year SOLA was notified of a new study to restore year round flow to the Clinton River. The study is being done by the "Great Lakes Stormwater Management Institute" (GLSMI) along with Lawrence Tech, with funding from state and local grants. Why does this concern SOLA? Sylvan and Otter Lakes are the last two lakes (with damn control) in the Clinton River chain. What we have to be very concerned about is our lake being forced to open our damn to support flow to the Clinton River mainly through the City of Rochester during dry summer months. This study started in the spring and they hope to have a recommendation on how to solve this issue in the near future. Many ideas have been discussed, and it seems that Sylvan and Otter Lakes are being considered to solve this issue. When GLSMI was asked directly, "If it is decided that our damn should be opened to create flow, and Sylvan Lake is at or below our legal level, would you also force lakes upstream of Sylvan and Otter to open their damns to contribute to the flow?" The answer was NO! Go to SOLA website for the link to the GLSMI project and stay informed on what is transpiring. Remember, they will need water when our area hasn't had much rain. That is most likely the same time we need our water to maintain our legal lake level for safe boating. Stay informed on this project!

Oakland County Sheriff's Department eliminated Marine Division patrol boats. Last year we told you that our lakes will no longer be patrolled by the Oakland County Marine Division. As lake residents, we all did a great job of self-policing and helping fellow boaters. Keep up the great work again this summer. Remember, all boat traffic is in a counter-clockwise direction and all canals are no wake – no wake means no white water behind your boat. Continue to be respectful of your lake residents and fellow boaters.

3rd Annual Sylvan Lake Summer Splash. It's a party and everyone is welcome. Volleyball, music and a great time out on the water at the sandbar between upper and lower Sylvan Lake. Come join the fun Saturday July 30 (rain date August 6) starting at 1:00. This party is scheduled for the last Saturday in July every year. If the weather is questionable, check the SOLA website to see if the party has been postponed to the following week.

Waterski Course on Otter Lake. The state approved course is in very shallow water and has a cable running the length of the course. The water depth is not deep enough for outboard motors, inboard/outboard boats or wake boats. The water depth and cable may ruin your prop or worse. If you have any questions on the proper use of the course, contact Phil Thomas @ 248-682-2894. The course is very costly to maintain so please be careful not to run over the ski balls or worse yet, cut the cable. Additionally, it is illegal to swim, fish, anchor or jet ski in a ski course.

New laws are in effect for operating personal watercraft. Go to the web site for details.

Donation Schedule for Sylvan and Otter Lake Association:

LAKEFRONT, CANAL FRONT, OR BOAT OWNER Minimum of \$75.00
BEACH PRIVILEGES Minimum of \$20.00

Treasurer's 2010 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 1,786.00	
Donations	\$ 31,843.00	
Weed control		\$ 22,237.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,491.00
Goose management program		\$ 575.00
Misc. fees		\$ 80.00
Total expenses		\$ 24,383.00
Ending balance	\$ 9,246.00	

I also want to thank Todd and Shelly Eddy for all their assistance with the banking, mailing, and collecting and recording all of the donations, as well as paying our bills again this year.

SOLA main focus is managing the weed problem in our lakes. SOLA does the best we can based on available funding. We will continue to treat the areas used by a majority of boaters, skiers, and swimmers first and then concentrate on the areas that will minimize the spreading of the weeds as our next priority. **Please mail your TAX DEDUCTIBLE \$75.00 minimum donation today. Make checks payable to: Sylvan / Otter Lake Association, P.O. Box 136 Keego Harbor, MI 48320**

PayPal. Due to the low usage, the fees associated with Paypal, and our inability to track who paid by address, we have decided to cancel our account. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Thank you, and if you have any questions or comments, please contact
Phil Thomas
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President
248-682-2894