

# SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

[www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org)

## ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### 2017

**Mission statement:** The Sylvan Otter Lake Association (SOLA) is a non-profit organization, comprised of volunteers to improve our lake community and protect the quality of our lakes for its safe recreational use. SOLA's main focus is to provide the best quality lake environment for all who use both Sylvan Lake and Otter Lake by managing weeds and wildlife.

**Weed Management:** Over the last two years more Milfoil weed patches have popped up in both lakes. The Milfoil weed is the hardest and most expensive to get rid of. Possible reasons why these added patches are appearing are due to boat drivers reversing the weeds off their prop in the lake. If you live or visit a lake resident in one of our canals, where most of these weeds originate, **please reverse your prop before leaving a canal** to help reduce them from spreading. Once the Milfoil weed patch starts, they expand as boats travel over these patches. Props cut the tops of the weeds off and the fragments fall to the bottom and regrow, expanding the patch. These new patches of weeds are not always easy to see at first, so it is difficult to treat these areas early. Additionally, SOLA doesn't have enough funding to treat our entire lakes to remove these weed patches. Take a look at our past 3 years donations and weed treatment history:

Year	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Donations	\$30,785	\$33,845	\$34,325
Weed treatment expense	\$28085	\$33,530	\$34,088

**SOLA is totally funded by your donations. Please don't forget to mail in your donations.**

**Last SOLA newsletter:** To reduce our printing expense and contribute as much as possible to weed treatment (and to go a little greener) SOLA will be eliminating this newsletter. All of our lake news and needed information will be located on our website [www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org). We will still send you a donation request envelope along with a small insert of new topics and needed information on website.

**Be careful of non-motorized water vessels:** A lot more people are enjoying paddle boarding and kayaking on the lakes these days. Some of these people are paddling just off shore and they can be difficult to see. Keep an eye out for them as you enjoy your leisurely boat cruise around the lake.

**“NO WAKE” zones. Boats within 100 feet of shore & in all canals must travel at no wake speed.**

**Thank you Al Payson:** As you know SOLA is a volunteer organization. 34 years ago, City of Sylvan Lake resident Al Payson stepped up to help improve our lakes and beach cleanliness. After all of these years, Al has decided to step down from this undertaking. Years ago, Al contacted the DNR seeking help to control the overpopulation of geese on our lakes. Under the DNR guidelines, Al has enlisted the support of the City of Sylvan, SOLA, and many lake residents over the years to reduce the number of geese on our lakes. Al has overseen many different programs over the years, egg harvesting and the goose round up being the most effective. Thanks to all of Al’s efforts and his army of helpers, our lakes and beaches are much cleaner. Because of Al’s dedication and efforts we have cleaner grassy areas and have not had to close a beach due to poor water quality for a long time. Thank you Al for all you did for SOLA.

**Thank you to the following lake residents who have volunteered their time to improve our lakes:**

- Lou Schimmel – Vice President of SOLA.
- Al Payson - Wildlife Management
- Shelly Eddy –Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski –Web-site Design and Maintenance for SOLA.

**Donation Schedule for Sylvan and Otter Lake Association - if you are a:**

**LAKEFRONT, CANAL FRONT, OR BOAT OWNER      Due: Minimum of \$75.00**  
**RESIDENT WITH BEACH PRIVILEGES              Due: Minimum of \$25.00**

**Treasurer's 2016 Report:**

Beginning balance	\$ 6,926.00	
Donations	\$ 34,325.00	
Weed control and permits		\$ 34,008.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,101.00
Web site host, misc. fees		\$ 236.00
Total expenses		\$ 35,424.00
Ending balance	\$ 5,827.00	

**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**

**SOLA does not issue beach tags or boat ramp keys anywhere around the lakes. Contact your homeowners or beach association as to how you can get beach tags and ramp keys.**

**Sylvan Otter Lakes Association web site - [www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org). Keep up on all of the latest lake information. Get access to links on key topics regarding our lakes community.**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at: [phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com) or call me on my cell at 248-961-3903 or at my home at 248-682-2894. Thank you and have a safe summer.

Phil Thomas, Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President