

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2018

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 Lakes by managing weeds and wildlife.

Major changes in 2018. I mentioned in last year's newsletter that I would be eliminating the informational piece of the newsletter starting this year, so we could put more funds towards the weed program. However, major changes have occurred at the state level involving lake regulations so I felt this required a more detailed newsletter this year.

The first big change has to do with the way we acquire permission to treat nonnative weeds in our lakes. In years past, your donation check sufficed as permission to treat the weeds in front of your home. Now we are being told by the state that your checks are not sufficient as an approval. The new DNR guidelines require each land owner's signed consent before we treat in front of your home. Many of you who live in the canals received flyers in May from local volunteers in your area requesting your signature / permission. If you have received one of those flyers and have not yet signed it, please do so and return it to the volunteer in your area. If you have not been contacted a by local volunteer, that means we have not treated the lake in your area as of yet or the treatment area is outside the setback limits and does not require a signature. This has been a big project and has required a lot of time to understand and implement. We are working with each of the four cities around our lakes for ways to make this process easier in the years to come. We will keep you informed as we progress.

The other big change at the state level pertains to the water ski course. As I'm sure you have noticed, there are now two large markers at the east and west end of the ski course identifying this as a ski area. What this means is that this area is not to be used for fishing, swimming, jet skiing, kayaking, paddle boarding, or anchoring inside the ski course, per new state regulations. The sheriff can ticket people in this area if they are using it for any other reason than skiing, even when it's not being used by skiers. Due to bad weather at the early part of the season and the new permit process, the ski course was not installed early this season. Unfortunately, there was extensive damage to the ski course before it was completely set up. The repairs required over \$1,000 and 60 man hours to complete. As a reminder, the ski course is in shallow water. There is a steel cable running down the center, with PVC arms extending to both sides. The cable and/or PVC could cause damage to your boat if hit by your prop. Please be careful navigating in this area.

Lou Schimmel has retired. Last year the Vice President of the Sylvan Otter Lake Association, Lou Schimmel informed me he will be retiring from his position. He has served for many years as support to the association, and his input and advice will be missed. We want to thank Lou for all of his years of service and wish him many more sunrises and sunsets on the lake. With Lou's resignation, this leaves us with an opening that we need to fill. Over the years we have worked very hard to improve our processes, reduce costs, yet maintain our lakes for all to enjoy. If you have the same passion and a few hours to share each year, we would like to hear from you. Thank you again Lou.

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 2017 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 5,827	
Donations	\$ 39,000	
Weed control and permits		\$ 32,397
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,284
Wildlife management programs		\$ 360
Web site host, misc. fees		\$ 88
Bank fees		\$ 66
Total expenses		\$ 34,195
Ending balance	\$ 10,632	

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**

Remember:

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

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.

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

- Open – Vice President of SOLA.
- Luke Cassar - Wildlife Management
- Shelly Eddy –Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski –Web-site Design and Maintenance for SOLA.

Sylvan Otter Lakes Association web site - www.sylvanotter.org. Keep up on all of the latest lake information. Get access to links on key topics regarding our lakes community.

With the bad weather at the beginning of the season, the changes at the state level regarding weed treatment and the new state regulated ski course, there has been a delay in publishing this newsletter. I apologize for getting this letter out late this year.

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

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at:
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