

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2010

One new addition and two big changes highlight the 2010 Sylvan Otter Lakes Association (SOLA) Newsletter.

In an effort to keep all of our residents better informed on lake events, SOLA is now on Facebook! Social networking is everywhere today, and with our limited budget, keeping you informed is now easier and affordable. Thanks to our website designer, Shane Doyle, we have created a Group Page on Facebook to keep you up to date on what is happening in and around Sylvan and Otter Lakes. Reach out and “join our Group” by searching for Sylvan Otter Lake Association. You can offer your opinions, suggestions and support now on Facebook. Also don’t forget to visit our website www.sylvanotter.org to view past news letters, financial history, PayPal donations@sylvanotter.org, and links to relevant websites for lake information. Find out the new rules for operating personal watercrafts, updates on weed treatment, goose round-up programs and more.

Two big changes will effect SOLA this year. Oakland County has more than 450 named lakes and over 1,400 bodies of water. We also have over 90,000 registered boats, more than any other county in the state. Unfortunately, we only received 25% of our boat registration fees we send to the state, or about \$240,000.00. Budget constraints and the economy are forcing Oakland County Sheriff’s Department to eliminate Marine Division patrol boats on certain lakes this year. Sylvan & Otter Lakes will be affected for 2010. This will mean that each boater will have to know the boating and personal watercraft laws, abide by the laws, and kindly inform those who are not. Last year the sheriff department patrolled our lakes for a total of 327 hours, stopped 691 boaters, performed 122 safety inspections, gave out 12 violations & 15 warnings, and assisted 5 boaters. The sheriff and local police departments will still respond to any kind of incident, accident or call placed to them, so don’t think you now have free rein of the lakes. This unfortunate situation will require every boater to do their part to guarantee safety to every boater, swimmer and property owner around our lakes. Some of the key rules to obey are: All boat traffic is in a counter-clockwise direction and all canals are no wake – no wake means no white water behind your boat.

The other big change this year has to do with weed control. The canal residents off of the north end of Otter Lake on Beverly Island, Beverly Island Estates, and Cass Lake Road are taking a different approach to weed control this year. Under the direction of Frank Chaffee, resident of Beverly Island Drive and other association residents, they are introducing weed-eating weevils into the canals. According to the research they have done, these weevils, in time, will multiply in numbers enough to consume the milfoil weed problem they are experiencing. This will mean that the SOLA will not be introducing any chemical treatment in those areas. The Eurasian Milfoil weed is the only plant that the weevils will eat. Eurasian Milfoil when cut, falls to the bottom and replants itself, which causes those areas to expand. Controlling the spread of these weeds continues to be SOLA biggest weed treatment issue. Therefore, please help us by following this simple request. If you travel those canals and if your prop should become entangled with weeds, please reverse your prop to clear the weeds before you leave the canals and enter the main lake

body. This will greatly help us manage the spread of the milfoil weed. If you have any questions about the weevil program you can contact Frank at 586-291-3115 or on his e-mail at fchaffee@aol.com. More about this program is also available on our website.

Do we have a weed problem or a funding problem? Nobody needs to be reminded of the current economic situation. Despite these difficult times, some investments can't be overlooked. Preservation of our lakes and our investment in our homes is still very important. Your \$75.00 donation to the SOLA is one of those important investments. SOLA is managing the weed issue 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. SOLA can assist in managing the weeds for our safe summer enjoyment but not without your help. Your donation is tax deductible. To those of you who have voluntarily increased your contributions in past years, we especially thank you.

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 or inboard/outboard 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, or anchor in a ski course.

New laws for operating personal watercraft. Michigan law requires that anyone born after Dec. 31, 1978, who wants to operate a PWC has to pass a boater safety course. In 2011, the legal age to operate a PWC alone will be raised to the age of 16.

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 2009 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 7,306.00	
Donations	\$ 25,730.00*	
Weed Control		\$ 26,422.00
State fees and permits		\$ 3,000.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,372.00
Goose Management Program		\$ 450.00
Misc. fees		\$ 6.00
Total Expenses		\$ 31,250.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,786.00	

**This is the least amount of donations SOLA has received in many years. The amount spent on weed control was the second highest in the last five years. This is a trend that cannot continue if we are to maintain our lakes. Please help by sending in your donation and asking your neighbors to do the same.*

Please mail your **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** check or use PayPal to send us your \$75.00 donation. Make checks payable to:

Sylvan / Otter Lake Association, P.O. Box 136 Keego Harbor, MI 48320

Thank you,
Phil Thomas 248-682-2894
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President