

Lake Major Watershed Newsletter



Volume 2 Issue 1

Summer 2008



East Lake

Board News

The Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board (LMWAB) met in April of 2008. The topics discussed were:

Preston Areas Trail Association

- During the spring of 2008, Halifax Water met with the HRM Regional Trails group association regarding a proposed trail network that would connect the communities of North Preston, Cherry Brook and East Preston. Some of the proposed trails utilize Lake Major Watershed land. Clearly, this is an important project for the communities surrounding the Lake Major Watershed.

Halifax Water looks forward to further dialog with the Preston Area Trails Association.

Hurricane Juan Clean Up - Since Hurricane Juan in 2003, Halifax Water has been conducting cleanup efforts in the affected areas and to date has completed approximately 280 acres. It has only been since the expansion of the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle Zone in May of 2006 that Halifax Water has been able to increase its efforts. Prior to this, Halifax Water had difficulty moving the material to a processing facility due to the zone and found the costs of disposing the material on site very expensive. Halifax Water has been targeting areas within close proximity to residential homes to reduce the risk of fire hazard.

By using traditional harvesting machines Halifax Water has been able to clean up significant affected areas, leave as many living trees standing as possible and protecting already established regeneration. The salvaged material is then moved to a processing facility by truck. Efforts should be completed by late fall of 2008. If you have any questions please contact watershed manager, Barry Geddes, at 869-4304.

Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) - Canadian Forest Services (CFS) is conducting research trials throughout the Lake Major Watershed and will continue into 2009. These trials are meant to capture and study the invasive species originally discovered in Point Pleasant Park by way of

massive trapping techniques. CFS is hoping to learn more about the BLSB mating pattern and use this information to aid in the fight against the beetle. For more information about the beetle please visit the website <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>.

North Preston Water Main Update - On March 18, 2008 Halifax Water met with the North Preston Rate Payers Association (NPRPA) regarding the planned water main extension. The meeting provided an opportunity for Halifax Water to review the plans of the extension and an opportunity for NPRPA to ask questions. The turnout was very good with lots of good questions asked.

The North Preston Water Main project went to Tender June 4, 2008 with the closing date June 25, 2008. A startup date is tentatively scheduled for late summer/early fall. For more information on the North Preston Water Main Project please contact John Eisnor, Project Engineer, 490-1930 or JohnE@halifaxwater.ca.

Boating - It is that time of year again to pull out the fishing rod and gas up the boat. Halifax Water would like to remind the public to have the proper safety gear and to wear your life jacket at all times when in your boat. Halifax Water also asks the public to obey all signs and regulations when fishing inside the Lake Major Watershed as it is for your protection and the safety of the drinking water supply.

For more information about fishing and boating restrictions within Halifax watersheds please contact the watershed manager at 869-4304 or contact your local Department of Natural Resources.

North Preston-Lake Major Annual Spring Clean-Up

During the week of June 16, Halifax Water conducted its Annual North Preston-Lake Major Clean-Up. Halifax Water would like to, once again, thank Ron David for his continued commitment to ensuring the Lake Major watershed remains a pristine water supply. This year's clean-up collected upwards of 1,600 lbs. of garbage, down 300 lbs. from 2007. What was collected consisted mainly of fast food containers and wrappers, and household garbage collected along the Lake Major roadway.

Profile of Mack McMenemy

Mack McMenemy has had ties to the Lake Major area since 1957 and has been involved with Lake Major watershed issues since the 1970s. That was when he joined with Mr. Arnold Johnson, who was then leading the North Preston Ratepayers, to oppose arbitrary restrictions that had been placed on those living in the Lake Major watershed area. Eventually, the communities of North Preston and Lake Major began legal action that drew the attention of East Preston and Cherry Brook and those two communities decided to join the original two communities and the Joint Action Committee (JAC) was formed. This group of concerned residents worked with the City of Dartmouth, County of Halifax and Province of Nova Scotia to develop the first community-based Development Plan in the County. It was from this group of dedicated volunteers, who gave up thousands of hours of their precious time, which the present Watershed Association Development Enterprise (WADE) evolved as well as the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board.

Mack stayed on as a board member of the JAC and the WADE for over twenty-five years. During that time he witnessed a great deal of change that is taken for granted today. He also met so many interesting people as a result of his involvement, and these people remain his friends even though they may have strongly disagreed on some issues. Arguments were discussed, sometimes heatedly, and settled over the boardroom table. Once a decision was made the group worked together to see that the decision was implemented.

Mack was a teacher after first trying construction labourer, the Coast Guard, lighthouse keeping, taxi driving and operating a small business. He taught mostly in Dartmouth but did teach briefly in North

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Preston where he drew wary looks as he rode his small blue Honda motorcycle to school. He retired from teaching in 1995.

He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Mabel, for forty-two years and they have a son, Seán, and a daughter, Erin, along with two grandchildren. Their Lake Major home is the only one Seán and Erin know as Mabel and Mack have lived there for over thirty-four years and had a cottage on the same site for several years before that. Mack has been a volunteer firefighter, a member and Chairman of the Cole Harbour Westphal Service Commission (it started Cole Harbour Place under the leadership of Alfie Giles) and was one of the first elected school board members in Nova Scotia winning by a landslide margin of ten votes out of several thousands.

Aside from his watershed involvement, he is most proud of having donated blood 350 times in Canada and 50 times in the United States before cancer made him ineligible to continue.

Brain Teaser

A man in a restaurant asked a waiter for a juice glass, a dinner plate, water, a match, and a lemon wedge. The man poured enough water onto the plate to cover it.

"If you can get the water on the plate into this glass without touching or moving this plate, I will give you \$100," the man said. "You can use the match and lemon to do this."

A few minutes later, the waiter walked away with \$100 in his pocket. How did the waiter get the water into the glass?

**See answer at end*

Brain Teaser Hint: The glass will be upside-down when the water is in it.
Brain Teaser Answer:
First, the waiter stuck the match into the lemon wedge, so that it would stand straight. Then he lit the match, and put it in the middle of the plate with the lemon. Then, he placed the glass upside-down over the lemon. As the flame used up the oxygen in the glass, it created a small vacuum, which sucked in the water through the space between the glass and the plate. Thus, the water got the water into the glass without touching or moving the plate.
You can try this experiment at home with appropriate supervision.