



Dock Talk is a publication of the Healey Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Latter

As I write this message in early March, the rain seems to have stopped in favour of snow, and the lake is ready to host snowmobilers, cross country skiers and even skaters?? (look for more on skating in another article).

There should be about 6 weeks of good winter fun ahead of us, but like many, I am quietly waiting for Spring & Summer.

The Cottage Watch program has been organized and is now underway. Each member of the Association should have at least one cottage inspection this winter. I would also ask those that use their cottages in the winter to at least casually monitor their neighbours who may only use the cottage for two or three seasons.

The snow-load on most roofs, at least judging by mine, doesn't seem to be a problem at this time. There has been lots of snow, but also a lot of melting.

The Eastern webcam is out of service. It is unlikely that it will be up and running before spring. A new camera is required and we may have to find a new site. Dave Duggan is working on solutions. The Western camera at Charlie Smith's is in action and provides a good view of the lake conditions.

Amanda Vincent of the Ministry of Natural Resources visited the dam last fall to try an easy fix for the leak. It was not successful but Amanda has been helpful with describing the process involved in making dam repairs. It is very, however, bureaucratic and time consuming.

We are looking at an option that involves drilling and the injection of cement. This option is being used on the dam on Lake Kawagama. I hope to have something more to discuss with the Association membership by the annual meeting.

David Pols, a long time Association member, has decided to retire (at 87!) from providing an independent year-end review of the HLPOA financials. There are very few, if any activities in which David and his wife Pam have not fully participated, not the least of which was the pre-computer era preparation and distribution for 16 years of Dock Talk. On behalf of all Members, I want to personally thank David and Pam for their many, many contributions to lake activities over the years.

The Association still has vacancies for the following positions. If you have the time and inclination to take responsibility for any of these openings, please contact me.

- 1) Treasurer
- 2) Year End Accounting review
- 3) Regatta Co-ordinator

The Executive is looking into an online option for renewal of membership this year. Sharon Toss will mail a renewal form sometime in March, so members can choose to either renew online or by mail. PayPal will again be available for those wanting to pay their membership this way.

Please make sure the Association has your most current address and contact information. It is the only way we have to contact you in the event of something untoward being found on your property by the Cottage Watch Team and to keep you informed of Association activities.

If there are any issues on particular concerns that need the attention of the Executive, please email me at: [dlatter@bellnet.ca](mailto:dlatter@bellnet.ca) or call my cell at [+1 416 407 4965](tel:+14164074965)

David Latter

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# ADVENTURES IN SKATING

David Latter

## Skating on Healey Lake

*"Only if you are lucky and only for a short time"*

Once again this Christmas, the Latters tried to prepare and maintain a small area in front of our place where the grandchildren could learn to skate or improve their technique. (It became quickly apparent some of the adults were at similar stages after being off skates for many years).

In years past, most attempts ended soon after the clearing of an area - and some before we even got a chance to skate. Wind, rain, snow, (and occasionally snowmobilers) have all spoiled the surface within a day or two.

This year, you will see from the pictures that we had a great start. The snow was fluffy and easy to clear. The ice was hard and smooth with only a few minor blemishes.



We started on a Friday with a large square area (photo 1 above). That lasted through New Year's weekend thanks to the hard work of young parents who could keep up with clearing the wet snow that fell steadily for two days.



By Sunday things were looking really (Photo 2 above) good and the big square was enhanced by a short trail extending further out on the lake.

I thought that this might be the year that we could keep the rink in skating condition for a week or even a month.

Alas the perfect conditions lasted only through Monday. Photo 3 (below) is just before the rink turned to slush.

Then the temperature rose the rains came and the rink and the lake was six inches deep in slush.

Maintaining the ice in skating condition for four days of good skating was a record in 10 years on the lake but I doubt it will be broken.

A better option is to use the family skate time at the MacTier arena. They are really glad to see you, and it is rarely crowded.



## IN MEMORIAM

Ralph Courtney



**Ralph Robert Courtney -- 68** of Healey Lake, ON passed away peacefully and surrounded by his loving family, on February 3, 2017 in Parry Sound.

Predeceased by his parents Stewart and Dorothy (Macdonald) Courtney and his wife Mary (Munro). He is survived by his wife Marilyn (Codner), his daughter Sue (Sean Kenney) and son David (Lisa)

as well as sons Jeff Hynes (Shannon) & John Hynes (Trudie).

Ralph was an extremely proud grandfather (chief fishing buddy, tubing boat captain and all around best friend) to 9 adoring grandchildren. He served as a volunteer fireman at Station 2 in Burlington and was a dedicated employee of Stelco in Hamilton.

If desired, expressions of sympathy are welcome as donations in Ralph's memory to the [West Parry Sound Health Centre](#) or the [Heart and Stroke Foundation](#).

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Hi Everyone,

What a year we have had so far. Lots of snow, poor ice conditions and very unsettled weather. The bright side is that we had a super year for property sales in 2016 and it hasn't slowed down yet. The MLS Statistical reports showed that sales for 2016 were up by 21% and the dollar volume was up 33% for a total sales volume of \$240,176,475. This is fantastic for our Part of Paradise. We will again be going to the [Cottage Life Show at the International Center](#) near the end of March to promote our properties to prospective Buyers. Our new Spring catalogue will be going to press shortly which we give away free of charge to 1,000's of interested Buyers.

If you are contemplating selling or buying this year, I would like to hear from you as soon as possible. We need time to do display boards, feature sheets and have your property featured in our new catalogue. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I offer personal and discreet service. "Helping you is what we do." Have a happy & safe year.

Regards,

*Gary R Jennings*

Broker



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## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

Grant Walker – Ward 6

Grant has shared that the Community Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) has been advised of the new Citizen Self-Reporting Tool for : ( On-line Program)located at [www.opp.ca/reporting](http://www.opp.ca/reporting)

### Use this system to report:

- ✓ Lost/missing property under \$5,000
- ✓ Stolen license plates or validation stickers
- ✓ Theft from a vehicle under \$5,000
- ✓ Mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- ✓ Mischief under \$5,000  
(damage to property other than a vehicle)
- ✓ Theft under \$5,000
- ✓ Driving Complaints

### DO NOT use this system:

*If the occurrence is an emergency*

- ✗ If the occurrence happened outside of OPP jurisdiction
- ✗ If there are any identifiable suspects
- ✗ If anyone was injured
- ✗ If the occurrence involves a weapon
- ✗ If the occurrence involves any damage to a motor vehicle due to an actual or apparent collision, including fail to remain collisions
- ✗ If the occurrence involves a break and enter to a place (e.g. unlawful entry and theft from a house, a building or a structure)
- ✗ If the total value of the property or damage exceeds \$5,000
- ✗ If the occurrence involves drugs or gambling (including lottery tickets)
- ✗ If the occurrence involves a passport
- ✗ If the occurrence involves a lost or missing license plate, validation sticker or disabled parking permit (no theft involved).



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## HEALEY LAKE TENNIS CLUB

John Green

While the nets have been stored away for the winter, come the spring, we'll be ready for another season! Participation last season allowed for a "break-even" year with court fees covering the liability insurance costs.

We're hoping for increased interest and a better turn-out this year, with an aim to securing enough memberships and court booking fees to also cover new nets and a second basketball net.

*A BIG thank you to Mariners Cove for once again looking after the court bookings.*

If anyone is interested in getting in some competitive tennis please email me with your contact info and level of play. We will set up a list and forward to everyone and set up some round robin play. We need some new signage so if anyone can help with this please let me know.

Rates for 2017 will remain the same at;

Hourly Court Fees: \$10.00

Yearly Memberships: \$100.00

John Green: [jmcreen@gmail.com](mailto:jmcreen@gmail.com) or [+ 1 905 870-5145](tel:19058705145)

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## TIPS FOR WINTER LAKE VISITS

-- Contributed --

For newer cottagers or those planning to head to the lake for the first time this winter, there are a few things to think about before venturing out. Here are some suggestions for things to consider and bring on your first adventure to the lake:

- 1. Ice Conditions:** Since most of our lake consists of 'boat-in' properties, knowing the conditions of the lake in the area where your property is located is key. Differing depths and currents mean parts of the lake freezes and thaws at different paces, and can even vary by time of day. While keeping an eye on the web cam helps, be sure to consult folks in your lake area and listen closely to the weather report before deciding to visit. Remember, when in doubt, don't venture out and ALWAYS travel with a buddy. Ice picks and flotation winter suits can be purchased at various recreational sport stores for reasonable prices. Cell phones are a good idea to carry at all times. If you are worried about water damage, a Ziploc bag can do the trick while outside. Lastly, steer well clear of all dock bubblers regardless of ice thickness. These systems prevent ice from forming around docks and can make surrounding ice unstable.
- 2. Entryways:** In addition to the main public dock between Lakeshore and Mariner's cove, Pine Bay, and FoxBack landings are both plowed during the winter.

Depending upon where your cottage is located, it may be a much closer walk/snow shoe or sled ride from these locations during the winter months even if you normally get to your cottage from the marinas in summer. Take a look at the map and set the quickest route.

- 3. Provisions:** For those visiting for the first time, a high sided sleigh is a great way to bring supplies in and out by foot or snowmobile. Unless you are lucky enough to have a winterized water system, water jugs for drinking are a must. Consider an ice auger to drill a hole in the ice to retrieve water for washing dishes or other needs. They can be purchased at the local hardware store in your area and can be invaluable to have for water retrieval and fishing! While this may sound primitive to some, it will interest you to know that the majority of winter visitors do not have water and manage just fine for many days at a time. If you do use an auger and make a hole of any size, be sure to mark it clearly to prevent injury to others. And of course...whatever you fancy for meals, don't forget to bring your beverages of choice to enjoy inside or lakeside :-). There's nothing quite like a lawn chair on the ice on a sunny day! :-)

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## TIPS FOR WINTER LAKE VISITS

-- Contributed --

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4. **Water:** As we noted earlier, bringing in water is a common practice of many cottagers on the lake. Residents with winterized waterlines will enjoy the beauty of heat tracing to keep water lines thawed and working during their stay, but even they are not foolproof when the temperature really drops. NOTE: If you are running your water system during the winter, drain your water lines/add glycol to toilets and drains before leaving and/or leave a bit of heat on to avoid freezing in colder temperatures. If in doubt consult a local plumber for advice.
5. **Heating:** Winter cottagers use a variety of solutions to heat their properties from base board heating to woodstoves, pellet stoves and space heaters. Be sure whatever you use has been safety certified and in good condition. Cottages that have been skirted or insulated underneath will definitely maintain internal heat better than those with open foundations but all are functional once the heat gets circulating. The amount of sun during the day can also impact how warm your cottage is during your stay. Inexpensive slippers and an extra layer of clothing can help make sure you and your family are cozy and comfortable.
6. **Amenities:** Winter cottagers have devised all kinds of ways to make the call of nature a comfortable one. If you are not in a winterized property (and most are not), an outhouse or enviro-toilet is a must. Even with year round septic, freeze ups can still happen. If you don't have an outhouse as backup, consider a port-a-potty for late night use. Some cottagers have gotten quite creative over the years—a fully heated outhouse can be pretty sweet in the dead of winter!



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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Ron Hutzul

**DID YOU KNOW;** That in addition to the very informative and helpful website, the Healey Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) has a presence on a number of popular social media sites. While it's great to share your Healey Lake adventures with family and friends, it's always nice to see what others are up to on the lake as well.

When posting, be sure to use the hashtag #healeylake



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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Sharon Tosswill

The official membership tally still stands at 181. When you pay your 2017 dues, you can now pay through PAYPAL!

Click the button below or click visit: [www.healeylake.org](http://www.healeylake.org)



Cottagers who are paying via PayPal must still send in their completed membership form. Signed, scanned forms can be emailed to Sharon. Membership forms will be sent out soon. When you receive the form, please take a moment to complete it, sign it and return it to Sharon for processing.

The cottage directory project is well underway – if you have updated to share, please email Sharon.

Membership Rates for 2017 will remain the same at;

Cottage Owner: \$40.00

Associate Member: \$20.00

Please email question or inquiries to Sharon Tosswill:

[Sharon\\_tosswill@hotmail.com](mailto:Sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com)

## THE LAST WORD

Ron Hutzul

This is my first issue as editor of DockTalk – and while I'll admit it's more than a little late in getting out, (there was a steep learning curve), I think the new format lends itself well to the digital publishing we're focused on moving forward.

My hope is that the next 4 planned 2017 issues will include a design overhaul, more digital content (photos, videos and links to social media content) along with digital submissions from the membership.

*Look for further updates in the April 2017 issue!*



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## "THE LAKE-ED CHEF"

Ron Hutzul

### Smoky Beef, Potato and Mushroom Stew

When purchasing the beef make sure that it has a good amount of fat marbling. This will allow it to withstand the long cooking period and make for a succulent and tender stew.

#### INGREDIENTS

- ☐ 3 tbsp (45 mL) vegetable oil
- ☐ 3 lbs (1.5 kg) stewing beef
- ☐ ½ cup (125 mL) all-purpose flour
- ☐ 2½ cups (625 mL) stout or porter
- ☐ 3 cups (750 mL) onions, coarsely chopped
- ☐ 4 cups (1 L) mushrooms, quartered
- ☐ 3 tbsp (45 mL) garlic, finely chopped
- ☐ 2 tbsp (30 mL) fresh sage, finely chopped
- ☐ ¾ cup (175 mL) smoky-style barbecue sauce
- ☐ 4 cups (1 L) gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- ☐ 2 cups (500 mL) celery, finely chopped
- ☐ Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- ☐ ½ cup (125 mL) flat leaf parsley, coarsely chopped
- ☐ ½ cup (125 mL) green onions, finely sliced

#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large sauté pan, heat oil over medium high heat and brown the beef in 2 batches until browned well on all sides, about 10 minutes per batch. Remove beef from pan and place in slow cooker. Add flour to pan and stir together with remaining fat, add 1 cup (250 mL) of the beer to the pan and scrape up browned bits. Increase heat until mixture thickens, about 2 minutes, then add all of this mixture to the slow cooker.
2. To the slow cooker also add the remaining beer, onions, mushrooms, garlic, sage, barbecue sauce, potatoes, celery and salt.
3. Cook on low for 9 hours. Once the stew is ready, season to taste with salt and pepper, stir in the parsley and green onions and serve.

*Recipe Serves 6*





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