



**Our Mission:** “To enhance the enjoyment of Sydenham, Bulls Eye, and Little Long Lakes, now and for future generations.”

**Jan '24 Communication to Sydenham Lake Association (SLA) Jan 10,**  
**(Highlights from the Jan 10, '24 Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting via Zoom)**

Note: we have a few questions for you: Please see the items in blue. You can reply to any of those in the C.c. list in the email, or on the SLA website. Thanks for your input!

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**SLA BoD Members:** Lana Foulds, Victoria England, Jim Hase, Matt Hopkins, Bill Peairs, Mark Schjerning, Jeff Bennett, Sean Alexander, Dave McCracken, Larry Graham

**2023: Year in Review:**

We are proposing the SLA BoD communicates with you, the members at least quarterly updates (ex: Jan / April / July / Oct) and to keep you informed about the SLA lakes, and local activities and events, and to remind you we're here for your ideas, insights and questions throughout the year.

**2024 Plans:**

**Membership:** (currently we are 115 members, and growing!)

**New members:** The BoD plans on organizing a 2024 new member initiative – likely in the spring/summer. We will update you in our next SLA member communication about the timing.

**Promoting the SLA:** We are also looking at ways to further promote the SLA via events such as the Lakes & Trails Festival, and/or a county fair, with a focus on keeping membership to residents of the SLA lakes so we are true to our Mission and our Constitution.

**Other ways to contribute:** We will also be connecting with South Frontenac Township (SFT) Mayor and council to discuss how/where SLA can further our influence and support of SFT.

**A question for you:** In our communication updates, would like us to include any SLA members who have passed away?

**Helping the SLA:** If you are interested in helping us with SLA events or being part of the SLA Board, please contact any of those listed above (all of us are “Copied” in this email).

**Financials:**

Our fiscal year end is May 31. The SLA December '23 cash balance was \$6,443. This is in line with our 10-year average \$6,478. There are no major expenditures or donations forecasted for the remainder of this fiscal year. In Fiscal Year '23, SLA donated \$500 to Sydenham Lake Canada Day celebrations.

**Water levels:**

**Water:** It was a dry fall for lakes in the South Frontenac area. The water levels in 2023 continued to be well-managed by SFT and the CRCA.

**Late ice:** Late ice continues to be monitored as it results is higher than usual evaporation.

**Debris at the Syd Damn.** We ask you to please remember to get tree and construction cuts out of the lake, as these block the flow of water at the Sydenham Lake damn, and the outflow just after the damn. Thank you!

**CRCA Source Protection Authority:** Two SLA Board members (Mark Schjerning and Matt Hopkins) are members of this group. <https://cleanwatercataraqui.ca/studies-and-reports/cataraqui-source-protection-plan-explanatory-document/>



### **Spring '24 Boat Launch on Eel Bay:**

We will update you in our next communication if the boat launch at 2008 Eel Bay Road (the Taylor residence) is available this spring, including a boat launch date if this is a “go”.

### **SLA Events 2024:**

Lakes & Trails Festival: We are awaiting SFT’s decision on this event, including timing this summer, if this event is a “go”. We’ll update you in the next

#### Canada Day fireworks:

- This event will not be in Sydenham in 2024. A SFT decision was made in 2023 to rotate this event between Sydenham, Storrington (July 1, '24), and Portland (July 1, '25). There is a rotation of these three municipalities over the coming years.
- **Our question to you re: Canada Day fireworks: What is your opinion re: the SLA attending other local Canada Day fireworks displays?**
- The SLA Board agreed that we won’t fund other Canada Day fireworks displays other than the Sydenham Lake fireworks event.

#### Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- In our next communication, we will confirm details of this event. We are looking at a 11 am to noon timeframe (for the formal AGM) on a Saturday in later July or early August. At the '23, AGM the majority of those in attendance asked that the next event be held in the Sydenham High School Auditorium, and that the event have an on-site SLA-managed BBQ, or we have the event catered.
- **Our questions to you re: the '24 AGM and future AGMs:**
  - Would you prefer this event be catered by a local caterer, or a SLA BBQ managed by SLA Board and SLA members?**
  - What food options are you interested in?**
  - What other guest speaker options would you like to hear from? (ex: Frontenac OPP Officer to talk about water and boat safety on the SLA lakes)**
- Guest speaker: Graeme Watson (one of SLAs Board members and an expert who will show GIS areas of our 3 lakes).

#### Poker Run:

- So this is truly a SLA event, we are seeking boats, docks and volunteers for this last SLA event of the year (mid-to-late August – to be confirmed in our next communication).
- Ideally, many members of the SLA will make themselves available. We will provide details and logistics for this annual event in the next two communications.
- **Questions:**
  - What suggestions do you have to involve more SLA members taking part in this event?**
  - What other SLA events would you like to see and participate in, or volunteer for?**



#### Other ways to keep informed re: New events for 2024:

South Frontenac Township “Newsflash”: Each SLA member can subscribe to this newsletter. Here are details from the Jan 9 email from Township of South Frontenac sent to community groups, social groups and lake associations:

- *“We’re pleased to announce that we’ll be launching a new communication channel in 2024: a new monthly e-newsletter called **NewsFlash**. We wanted to make you aware of this new newsletter to stay up-to-date on Township news, events, projects and more. [Subscribe now](#) then look for the first issue in your inbox in mid-January. You can unsubscribe at any time. Please share with your members and ask them to subscribe. Thanks for your interest in South Frontenac Township!”*

**Laurie Swinton, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer**, Township of South Frontenac

#### Correction:

FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottager’s Associations:

- At the 2023 AGM, Larry Graham shared that SLA membership in FOCA is free. This was incorrect information. (Apologies from Larry).
- The corrected information from FOCA is that membership is good for one year, and fees for associations (such as SLA) are \$125.00. plus a per member fee of \$4.00 per member. This equates to a ~\$525 for 115 SLA members to join FOCA.

#### NsN: Neighbours saving Neighbours:

- NsN: NsN is up and running with ~80 volunteers and they are looking for additional members/volunteers.
- SLA Board Member Mark Schjerning is the SLA lead on this great initiative.
- **Our question to you: Are you interested in helping out NsN? If so, please email Mark Schjerning (email included in the C.cc section of the email for this communication).**

Bill 23: (More homes built faster Act): This is balancing the need for the development of homes and places to live AND protecting lakes. Group: “Planning for Shore Lands” (a think tank for watersheds Canada).

- We will keep you informed of any updates on this. SLA BoD member Bill Peairs has spoken with Scott Truman and is waiting for an update.

#### SLA Website and Meta updates:

- The SLA website is updated regularly, including this Jan ’24 communication.

#### Incident reporting: Illegal fishing (MNRA) / Unsafe Boating (OPP) / Dam debris:

- Please let us (SLA BoD) or the OPP know of these occurrences if/when you see them.

**Thank you for your support of the SLA!**

*The SLA Board of Directors and Executive*