

Acton Island Association
Report to Members

November, 2004

Dear Members:

Your Board of Directors has decided to issue a "Report to Members" on a semi annual basis, in the fall and spring of each year. This report, the first of which you are reading today, will outline issues that the Board believes you should be aware of or other matters of general interest. In an effort to avoid spam filters currently used by many email service providers this report will not be sent as an attachment to an email. Therefore its format, of necessity, will be quite straightforward.

The Annual General Meeting was held on August 29, 2004 at the Bala Community Centre. We had a very good turnout and I think that everyone enjoyed the meeting, the refreshments and especially the speaker Rob Allen of Northway Gardeners who spoke on how to build and or maintain a natural looking waterfront and the benefits of so doing.

The minutes of the AGM are located on our website, www.ActonIsland.com.

Some of the items covered at the meeting were:

- (1) The change in our year end from June 30 to April 30. This change will allow us to hold the AGM earlier in the summer and permit the Directors who are elected at that meeting to have more time to meet during the summer and fall. As a result, next years AGM will be held, tentatively on Sunday, June 26 at 1pm at the Bala Community Centre. It is the Board's hope that the AGM can be held each year on the Sunday prior to what is generally considered the July 1st long weekend;
- (2) The election of new directors. Sally Hastings will be a Director at Large. Leslie McCann will be your new Treasurer. Bruce Patterson will be your new Director of Membership and Bill Tannahill will be a Director at Large. Jim Lewis becomes your Past President and the Board elected me, Gord Richards as your new President. Bob Anderson will continue as Director of Operations, Jim Claydon as Director of Communications and Gwen Jocelyn as Secretary. All of your Board members' addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses are listed at the end of this report;
- (3) The announcement by Jim Claydon that he, on behalf of the Board, had successfully lobbied the Township to reduce the speed limit on the entire island to 50 Km per hour. The signage for this has already been erected. Car speed on the island was the second largest response item to our request on the 2003 membership renewal form for feedback from members. If speed on the road continues to be a problem, please notify both the OPP and your Board. The largest response to the 2003 membership renewal form question concerned the poor condition of the Acton Island and Innisfree roads. As you are aware, these roads were repaved during the summer.
- (4) A discussion of the causes for several bear sightings. Bears have always lived on the island and generally stay well clear of humans unless they cannot find sufficient food in the woods or if they smell garbage that has been left out for garbage collection. The

sightings this year all revolved around bears being seen rummaging through bagged garbage left by a driveway or bears foraging for food in wooden garbage containers. The bears are very resourceful and can generally access wooden garbage bins even if they seem to be well secured. They do not seem to have the same level of success with the new metal container. Therefore, if you do not have a metal container please consider buying one especially if you are not able to put your garbage out on the morning of garbage day. Leaving bagged garbage by your drive at any time other than the morning of garbage day is an invitation to bears. While we are not aware of any incidents to date with bears menacing children, pets, joggers or walkers, there is always potential for this if the bears are rummaging through garbage. Of course, an incident could create a liability problem for any owner who has not taken reasonable precautions to keep bears away from their garbage.

(5) A vote by the members at the AGM to contribute \$500 to the Marine Patrol of the MLA (Muskoka Lakes Association) and \$500 to WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation). The Marine Patrol, in response to the Boards request and contribution last year, has increased its presence around Acton Island and we believe that it has helped to encourage better boating practices. Wraft (www.wraft.com) is actively fighting for a change in the way that waterfront properties are assessed. Originally part of the MLA, Wraft has now become a province wide organization. Its increased profile and funding should allow it to more effectively lobby the government to implement a more equitable way to tax waterfront properties. Please visit their website if you have a few minutes.

Your association has a website, www.actonisland.com which has the minutes of all annual general meetings, application forms for membership as well as a list of links that members may be interested in visiting. We will be updating our site to include more information on taxation, a listing of your directors and how to contact them as well as other things that your Board believes may be of interest to you.

This fall and winter your Board will continue to monitor township meetings to ensure that it is well informed. Your Board will also be working this fall and winter on a Roster Of Members which will outline each member's cottage address, cottage telephone number and city telephone number. This will be circulated to you. If you do NOT wish to be included in the roster and are not sure whether you so indicated on your membership application please contact Bruce Patterson (see listing below).

The Township of Muskoka Lake's web site (www.township.muskokalakes.on.ca) has some excellent information on, for example, events that are happening during the year, recreation trails, locations of public tennis courts as well as information on just about anything that you would like to know about. Their "Muskoka Lakes Information & Recreation Guide" has seventy pages of information. It can be viewed on their website or can be picked up at the Township Offices in Port Carling.

Acton Island is part of Ward C. Stewart Martin is your District and Township Councillor and can be reached at smartin@muskoka.com or 705-765-3370. Karen Ellis is also a Ward C Councillor (705-765-6337) as is Brian Hare (705-765-5527 or brabbit@muskoka.com). If you have a question, a problem or a complaint, you should

first contact the Township offices at 705-765-3156. They will refer you to the most appropriate person. However, if you do not receive satisfaction when dealing with the Township please call one of your Ward C Councillors.

A listing of your Acton Island Association Board and their contact information is as follows:

President: Gord Richards, 1153 AI Rd., 705-762-5394 or 416-486-0507,
g-richards@sympatico.ca

Past President: Jim Lewis, 1043 Innisfree Rd, 705-762-1799,
cleanor.lewis@sympatico.ca

Director of Operations: Bob Anderson, 1247-11 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-5200,
bobkathanderson@sympatico.ca

Director of Communications: Jim Claydon, 1123 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-3170,
jayclay@vianet.ca

Director at Large: Sally Hastings, 1029-2 Ham Rd., 705-762-5171

Secretary: Gwen Jocelyn, 1150 AI Rd., 705-762-2422, gjocelyn@muskoka.com

Treasurer: Leslie McCann, 1133 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-5784,
leslie@summitmortgage.ca

Director of Membership: Bruce Patterson, 1250 AI Rd., 705-762-5270,
oldpeakroad@yahoo.com

Director at Large: Bill Tannahill, 1022 Guys Rd., 705-762-0938,
tannahill@encode.com

Your Board is here to serve the needs of its members. If you have ideas or would like to become involved please contact me or one of the other board members.

Muskoka is a beautiful part of Canada. I hope that you will be able to spend some time there over the winter and spring.

Yours truly,

Gordon Richards
President