

## Area Stewards Report 2006

The pulse of the Lake of Bays Community in the summer of 2005 was taken by 39 dedicated area stewards, the dedicated volunteers who visit you on behalf of the Lake of Bays Association. Stewardship blends interest in people with a passion for the Lake of Bays Association's goals. They are the front line in the association's commitment to promoting, maintaining and enhancing a clean, healthy and natural environment, a well-serviced community and a safe and peaceful lake. We've renamed the position, from "area captain" to "area steward" to capture a softer, more pastoral image.

The Lake of Bays Association had a membership of 1,416 members at the end of the 2005 season; area stewards contacted 32 per cent of the membership last summer. Our plan is to rotate the areas we visit every other year so area stewards can visit more of the members and new residents.

The stewards report the subject people most wanted to talk about at the cottage door was boating — including boat traffic, noisy boats and boats towing toys and people too close to docks and swimmers. People also wanted more signs on the water giving speed limits.

The second big issue was bear safety; members are seeing more bears than in past years. Worries about the environment were triggered by the increase of algae in the water. People asked about lake water quality and shoreline development. (You can read more about both in the Environment Committee report).

Taxes, of course, were a hot topic, and interestingly, so was building. People wanted to know about the building code information, boathouse permits and the size of cottages. Stewards took those questions issues to the board for responses.

This summer area stewards will have brochures on some of the issues to distribute as they visit around the lake looking for potential members and inviting people to get involved in association activities.

Area Stewards kick off their work after Victoria Day. If you're interested in volunteering as a steward, please contact Betty McDonald at 416-724-0120 or [betty.home@rogers.com](mailto:betty.home@rogers.com)