

Counting down to the OMB 26 June, 2006

Moving swiftly into the "Dog Days" of summer, ***it is hard to realize that in just two weeks the Peninsula Lake Association will again join other interested parties and participants in concert with the Township of Lake of Bays to oppose the permitting of a new large rock quarry near Pen Lake.***

Five long years after our first introduction to this unwelcome proposed development, ***the scheduled ten day OMB Public Hearing, so crucial to the future character of Pen Lake, begins in Dwight at the Community Centre at noon Monday July 10th, concluding by July 21st.***

All members of the community are welcome to attend at any time. It would be wonderful to see you there since an audience provides a tangible and often helpful display of broad public concern. In particular, and ***very important to our cause, is the Public Forum which has now been firmly scheduled for the evening of Thursday July 13th (time TBA) in Dwight.*** This special session will give individuals and organizations with views on the proposed quarry development a chance to convey them directly to the OMB, much as was done for the Council of Lake of Bays Township in 2003

when more than two hundred turned out. ***Please mark the evening of July 13th on your calendar, and if possible plan to attend.*** For further detail or information about this special Public Forum or the daily OMB sessions, please contact Pat & Joe Doyle at 705-635-2656 or doyle@muskoka.com .

As a result of your on-going financial support we're very pleased our team of expert consultants is again in place, committed and coordinated as they gear up to provide relevant, focused and strong evidence about the adverse impact of the proposed quarry development.

We want to acknowledge again the unprecedented and most generous support received to date. These many, many donations---large and small, from over four hundred individuals, families and groups---provide the basis for our communal defense of the lake. Your contributions, along with those of your family, friends and neighbours, give real meaning to preserving our recreational heritage and protecting our natural environment. Thank you all.

Indeed, we wish it were possible to provide appropriate recognition for every donor at this point; however, that will come very soon. We can tell you, as we move closer to the OMB Hearing, that there is no bigger thrill for us than visiting the Pen Lake Association's mailbox and finding not only contributions to the cause but also some very kind words of encouragement. We have been not just encouraged, but truly amazed to find substantial donations from families very new to our lake. And of course, given our need for additional funding due to the false start at the OMB last year, we have been especially gratified that many of our early supporters are making additional contributions at this time. (One who did suggest that if all previous donors made an additional gift amounting to 20% of their original offering we would easily make our target.)

As we "count down", we are getting closer everyday to meeting our fundraising goal. It is within sight. We are almost there, but not quite. More help is needed now. We must come up with approximately \$10,000 more between now and the end of these OMB Hearings.

If you haven't yet contributed, or would once again, it is not too late and we can assure you that the last dollar raised will be just as important as the first. Our most recent campaign could certainly use additional support if you are so inclined, and **we remind you that donor forms are available at the Pen Lake Association's website at www.penlake.ca** . (These forms must be completed in order to provide appropriate acknowledgement and public recognition as well as a valuable income tax receipt).

Now is a critical time, one last chance to make our case. With your continuing interest and support we'll make it. We're counting on you.

The Quarry Committee for the Peninsula Lake Association