



SPRINGSYDE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

PENINSULA LAKE, MUSKOKA, ON

August 30, 2016

Dear Fellow Penlakers,

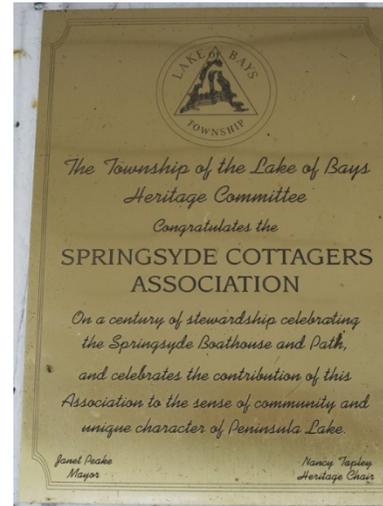
Re: Appeal for Repairing Historic Springsyde Dock

At the recent PLA Annual General Meeting, we made the Board and PLA membership aware that the Springsyde dock suffered serious damage due to ice and wind movements in the winter of 2015. Of course those of you who participated in the 2015 and 2016 Penlake regattas already knew this. We now have sufficient quotes to consider proceeding with the repairs.

Springsyde is the name given to the one mile of south-east shoreline of Peninsula Lake. The “Plan of Springbank” was registered in 1903 when this area subdivided into cottage lots. The Springbank Cottagers’ Association (“SCA”) was created in 1905. At that time, an Association dock and boathouse were built for use by the Association. The Algonquin Steamer stopped at this dock starting in 1906, delivering a mailbag for the Springbank cottagers. Springbank changed its name to Springsyde in 1912 (we will continue with the SCA abbreviation). The SCA is a registered corporation; however, it does not hold charity status and therefore cannot issue tax receipts for donations. The SCA owns the dock and the land behind it.



In 2005, SCA received the Heritage Award from the Muskoka Heritage Foundation, which operates under the Ontario Heritage Act.



This dock has been used through the years by many Penlakers and has been the venue for the annual Penlake Regatta. The PLA has obtained specific insurance for the use of the dock for the Regatta, and is currently paying an annual fee of \$650 to the SCA for the use of the dock on the Regatta weekend. The Penlake regatta is a heritage/multi-generational reality far beyond the Springsyde shoreline. In fact, the PLA gave the SCA a lovely plaque commemorating our 100th year anniversary in 2005.



In 1994, there was a large campaign to fix the dock, which was funded by Springsyde members as well as several other Penlake cottage owners who recognized the importance of this building to the history of the lake as a whole. The cost of that repair was approximately \$18,000. We have a plaque on the entrance to the Springsyde dock commemorating the generosity of those who contributed to the 1994 campaign.



We are now starting a new capital campaign. The scope of the current repair is considerably smaller than in 1994 and this is reflected in the amount we need to raise to allow us to proceed with the work. At this time we are approaching both Springsyde cottagers and the broader Penlake community in our fund raising effort. It is our hope that PLA members, particularly those who have enjoyed the Regatta over the years, will wish to contribute to the repair of this structure.

Ryan Livingstone’s estimate for the repairs is just over \$5,000 using pressure treated lumber. However, we believe that if it’s fiscally possible we should use the more environmentally friendly alternative of cedar and/or hemlock. We know this change would have a considerable impact on the final cost. We’ve decided to move ahead with our fund-raising efforts and hope that the results will allow us to make what we consider the more responsible choice.

The SCA membership has supported PLA initiatives in the past and many of our members responded to the call for funds to fight the Quarry, which had a Penlake-wide impact. We like to think that the Springsyde dock falling into disrepair is also a Penlake-wide issue, since it is a piece of the lake’s heritage, the only remaining Peninsula Lake steamship dock. .

All who wish to contribute may send their cheques to:
 Springsyde Cottagers Association
 c/o Betsy Smith
 1205-2 Put-in-Bay Road
 Huntsville, ON P1H 2J6

Thank you.

Yours truly,
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 (as listed on the following page)

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