

# Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



## Spring 2006

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### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

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We are once again gearing up for our Annual Pancake Breakfast being held on **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall. This event benefits from the involvement of our members, so if you are able to:

- **Contribute items** to the silent auction table, please contact Janice Paterson at 636-0568, or Harold or Betty Aylesworth at 636-1759.
- **Volunteer some time** on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, contact Judy Dunn at 636-5727.

Your donations of items and/or time are always greatly appreciated.

The breakfast menu consists of **sausages** and **pancakes**, with locally-produced **maple syrup** (which is exceptionally delicious this year). We will start serving at 9:00 a.m. and continue right up until noon. Coffee, tea and juice are also included, all for the low price of:

- Adult - \$6.00
- Youths (5-12) - \$4.00
- 4 years and under - FREE

A host of volunteers will be on hand to serve you, and there will be opportunities to win and bid on some great prizes.

This is our big fund-raising event of the year, so please support your association by coming out. Additional friends, family, visitors and renters are always welcome, too.

Remember, while you are at the Pancake Breakfast, you can also:

- **Submit photos** for the photo contest,
- **Visit the Membership Table** to pay your dues or update your contact information.

So, add these points to your May 2006 long weekend checklist:

- Sunday morning - go to Hall;
- Check in at membership table (pay membership dues, provide email address, update/verify address information);
- Buy breakfast ticket(s);
- Enjoy good food and good company;
- Put in bids on silent auction item(s).

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## WRAFT

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A couple of important things have occurred on the Ontario property tax assessment front:

- Ontario Ombudsman André Marin issued his report on the assessment procedures at MPAC called *Getting it Right: Investigation into the Transparency of the Property Assessment Process and the Integrity and Efficiency of Decision-Making at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation*. It is important to note that the focus of the investigation was the administration of the property assessment system by MPAC, not changing the system itself. The report includes 22 recommendations on how MPAC can better serve property owners, particularly when they are appealing a tax assessment.

To see a full copy of the report go to <http://www.ombudsman.on.ca/pdf/MPACFINALREPORTENG.pdf>.

- MPP Tim Hudak introduced a private member's bill which would place a 5% cap on property assessments each year if a person owning the property continues to retain it, would allow homeowners to make up to \$25,000 in home repairs or alterations without the property experiencing an increase in assessment, and would exempt seniors and disabled people from paying property taxes on the first \$10,000 of the assessed value for their principal residences. This bill passed second reading in mid-April.

WRAFT encourages you to continue writing to your MPP and to the Finance Minister, Dwight Duncan, to express your support for WRAFT's efforts to bring about change in the current system of property assessments. Visit the WRAFT website at [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com) for more information.

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## PERRY TOWNSHIP SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

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Perry Township has received funding to conduct a study to help develop a long-term sport and recreation plan for the Township. As permanent or seasonal residents, the study planners would like to hear your opinions.

Included with this newsletter is a document which provides information on this study, as well as a questionnaire. We encourage you to participate by completing and returning the questionnaire.

For those of you who receive this newsletter electronically, you can print a copy of this document by going to our website (<http://www.baylakeontario.com>) and clicking the Township Study link.

If you would like to keep up-to-date on activities going on in the Township of Perry, visit their website at [www.perrytownship.com](http://www.perrytownship.com).

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## NATURE'S WAY

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**Rabies Report:** We are happy to inform you that there was only 1 case of rabies reported in northern Ontario between July and September, 2005. That one case was a rabid bat reported in Muskoka.

**Moose Tracks:** Residents have reported seeing very large moose tracks on North Bay Lake Road. Unfortunately - or maybe fortunately - they did not see the very large moose that made them. According to their nature book, these tracks and the space between them were larger than the largest example shown. Keep your eyes peeled!

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## LOCAL EVENTS

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Don't forget our very own **Pancake Breakfast** at the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall between 9:00 and noon on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## SEASONAL UPDATES

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- **Fire Permits:** Don't forget that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> you need a fire permit for outdoor fires. You can no longer get fire permits at the Recycle Centre on Highway 592, but you can get one at J&J Crafts in Novar (but only until the end of May), at the Information Centre on Hwy 11, at the Perry Township office, and at Rickwards in Kearney.
- **ATV Speed Limits:** The speed limits for ATV's has been set as follows: 20 km/h maximum on any road with a posted speed limit of up to 50 km/h; 50 km/h maximum on any road with a posted speed limit of more than 50 km/h; 10 km/h maximum on any roadway or parking lot of a public park or school or beach.

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## BAY LAKE NOTICE BOARD

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We have erected a new notice board next to the Bay Lake Welcome Sign Board in order to replace the old notice board that used to sit at the intersection of Bay Lake Road and North Bay Lake Road.

Please feel free to post any notices on this board...and thank you for not using the Welcome Sign Board for such postings.

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## BAY LAKE WELCOME SIGN BOARD

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You may have noticed that we have added a BLPOA Newsletter box to the Welcome Sign Board. Additional copies of the newsletter will be placed in the box so that people can help themselves to a copy.

An updated Directory Listing will be posted in June - after people have had a chance to pay their memberships at the Pancake Breakfast on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## EBAYLAKE

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### YOUR BUY AND SELL SERVICE

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Not only can you list things you would like to **buy** or **sell** on eBayLake, but you can also list things you want to **give away**. A number of items have found their way to new homes thanks to this listing.

You can also use eBayLake for **cottage rentals** -- list your cottage if it is available for rent, or indicate that you are looking to rent a cottage on Bay Lake.

**To list an item**, simply send an email to [ebaylake@baylakeontario.com](mailto:ebaylake@baylakeontario.com) with the text of your ad as you want it to appear. Be sure to provide the following information:

- Your name and contact information, including the name and Bay Lake address of the BLPOA member;
- Whether your item is WANTED or FOR SALE, or FOR RENT or FREE;
- The name and brief description of the item;
- The cost of the item (if selling).

Assuming your request passes our screening process, it will be posted on the site (inappropriate or illegal items will not be accepted, and items will be posted from paid-up members only). People interested will contact you directly. If you sell or buy your item, you will need to send another email to [ebaylake@baylakeontario.com](mailto:ebaylake@baylakeontario.com) informing us of this so we can remove it from the listing.

**To review the items** posted, just visit the website and click on the eBayLake link.

**To respond to an item** posted, Send an email to the contact person (this can usually be done by clicking on the email address for the listing).

That's it! We hope you enjoy this new service. We look forward to receiving your ads as well as any feedback you may have.

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## TOXIC ALGAE BLOOM

### LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THREE MILE LAKE

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To help us avoid the horrific situation that plagued Three Mile Lake last fall, our beloved Bay Lake has to go on a diet – a phosphorous diet!

For those of you who aren't aware of what happened, last fall Three Mile Lake suffered a bloom of toxic blue-green algae called cyanobacteria. From September until December, residents were unable to use the lake water for anything other than flushing toilets – no swimming or other water sports, no drinking, no showering or washing dishes or clothes with the lake water.

We normally co-exist quite happily with cyanobacteria. However, when conditions are right, rapid growth can occur and cause a serious health threat to humans and animals. The nerve and liver toxins in the bacteria can cause skin rashes, aching joints, cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and respiratory problems. Our pets could even die from drinking the water, but that rarely happens to people.

Not all algae blooms are cyanobacteria blooms. Cyanobacteria blooms cover the water with a fluorescent blue-green paint-like scum – most commonly in July, August or September – that is hard to pick up and hold on a stick. The bright green algae clouds we see floating below the surface, as well as the powdery yellow stuff we've seen floating on the lake, are not cyanobacteria blooms.

A cyanobacteria bloom is not only dangerous, but it is ugly to look at (picture pea soup with chunks of algae floating in it) and it smells bad (some days like rotting garbage, other days like decaying vegetation).

One of the things cyanobacteria needs to flourish is phosphorous, and this is something that each of us adds to our lake simply through using our septic systems. Add to that a variety of other ways that we introduce phosphorous into the lake, and we could be looking at a recipe for disaster.

Here are the things you can do to put Bay Lake on a diet and lower its intake of phosphorous:

- Use phosphate-free detergents and cleaners such as EcoEthic or Nature Clean. Avoid using bleaches and anti-bacterial soap as these disrupt the functioning of your septic system.
- Maintain your septic system – have it pumped regularly and have it inspected.
- Never use any soap or shampoo in the lake itself.
- Do not put in a lawn, or change your lawn to natural groundcover. If you do have a lawn, do not use fertilizers or pesticides.
- Maintain or add as much shoreline vegetation as possible, and keep your property well forested. This will help keep phosphorous out of the lake.
- Minimize your boat wake so as not to churn up lake sediment.

Bay Lake is incredibly precious to all of us. Let's take those extra steps to ensure that it remains healthy. The last thing we want is for our lake to turn into a scary, ugly, smelly water monster.

Thanks to Ray Ford for the information in his article in the May 2006 issue of Cottage Life magazine, entitled "What happened last summer at Three Mile Lake".