

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter



Winter, 2001



PGT STATUS

Bob Bergman of the MNR graciously agreed to attend one of our meetings to discuss the PGT status (Put, Grow, Take - a fish stocking methodology) of Bay Lake in view of the concerns expressed at the AGM. He provided some historical background on our fish population and offered some options on how we might proceed in the future.

Even though it has not been stocked with lake trout since 1995, Bay Lake is considered by the MNR to be a lake trout lake. Stocking has not been done in recent years because it was the opinion of the MNR that the water quality was not high enough to support these fish.

Being classified as a lake trout lake means that more stringent rules apply to development as compared to lakes that do not have that designation. It also means the lake trout season is open all year except for Christmas Day, and we are listed in MNR publications.

Over the past few years, the MNR has been managing Bay Lake as a pickerel lake, but they are willing to try to help us manage both types of fish. To that end, we were encouraged to continue our pickerel stocking program and Bob Bergman agreed to conduct a monitoring program in the early summer to determine how well the pickerel are adapting.

In terms of lake trout and our PGT status, Bob Bergman offered to stock clipped lake trout for a couple of years and do a proper assessment to determine if the lake trout are living well in

our lake. Therefore, it was agreed that we would keep the PGT status for now, but it was recognized that the future of that status would depend on the results of the assessment. If indications are that we do not have a level of water quality that is high enough for lake trout, then the MNR will remove our PGT status. If the results are positive, then the MNR will continue to work with us to manage a lake trout population.

It is important that everybody recognize that one of the main contributors to a reduction in water quality is septic systems. While we as a group cannot control the number of septic systems on our lake, as individuals we owe it to ourselves and everyone else on Bay Lake to ensure that our own septic systems are in proper working condition. This is essential for quality of water, and for quality of life for the fish and human populations.

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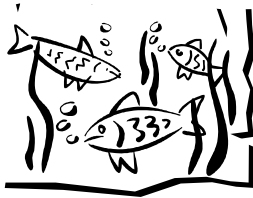
FISH NEWS

The long-anticipated stocking fish finally arrived and were distributed by a volunteer crew around the lake in October.

Approximately 1,300 pickerel between 5" and 8" were added and we anticipate a 90% survival rate.

Unfortunately, the price of the fish was considerably higher this year, and the cost of this batch was \$3,000. This purchase has used up our Fish Fund – and more. So, donations to the Fund are more than just welcome – they are necessary in order to build the balance back up.

Donations can be made at the upcoming Winter Poker Run and Pancake Breakfast (see the articles on this page), or they can be given to any member of the Executive, and/or can be included when you pay your annual membership fees.



Not only do we have many new fish in the lake, but we now also have a new spawning bed for them. An unbelievably large pile of gravel (17 tons) was delivered to us and, thanks to the super-human efforts of volunteers, was transferred into the lake to form the new pickerel spawning bed. Your Association President even showed up with a shovel, but after a few back-breaking bucketfuls she volunteered to go get coffee instead!

A big thank-you is extended to the volunteers who helped with both these projects. So much effort went into these projects that a simple thanks doesn't seem enough.

ANNUAL WINTER POKER RUN

Unlike last year, this winter's weather seems to be truer to the season, and we hope it will keep up so that the annual **Winter Poker Run** can actually occur. The date has been set for Saturday, March 10th, with a weather date of Saturday, March 17th.

For those who have never participated, there will be a short course set up for those who would like to walk or ski, and a long course for snowmobiles. If doing one of the courses doesn't appeal to you, feel free to just come out and have a good time with some of your neighbours.

The fun will start around 11:00 a.m. at the Tilley cottage (1427 Bay Lake Road) and go until 2:00 p.m. At 12:00 noon, we will be serving hot dogs, chili, hot chocolate and hot apple cider.

All this comes at no charge to you as part of your BLPOA membership fees, but be sure to bring some money for poker hands (\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00) and for 50/50 draw tickets. You might also want to bring a donation for the Fish Fund, which is in need of rebuilding.

Don't forget to tell your renters and guests, as everyone is welcome. The more the merrier! Watch the bulletin board for details closer to the date.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

This is advance notice that our annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 20th at the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall. Make plans now to attend!

If you have any items you would like to donate to the prize table, please contact Roger Monchamp (636-1507). Also let Roger know if you would like to volunteer some of our time to this event.

REMEMBRANCES

It is with great sadness that we report the death of a family member of each of two long-time Bay Lake residents.

The son of Rita Reid and the late Roy Reid died in an industrial accident, while Richard Lambert's son passed away this past summer.

Our heart-felt condolences go out to the members of both the Reid and the Lambert families.

THE COTTAGE LIFE SHOW

Always an interesting and informative event, the Cottage Life Show will be held from Friday, March 30th through April 1st at the International Centre in Toronto (6900 Airport Road). Parking is free, but admission is \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for youths 13-18. Kids 12 and under get in for free.

This show features lots of products, ideas and information about life at the cottage. Many items are offered at special show prices. It could be worth your while to make the trip to Mississauga!

AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Red squirrels have been added to the endangered species list, so it is now illegal to kill them.



WINTER CONDITIONS

As you know, the snowfall this winter has been greater than in the last few years. At Bay Lake, there is approximately 5 to 6 feet of buildup in some places. If you haven't already done so, you might want to head up to your cottage and check your roof. Apparently, some insurance companies will not pay the claim if the property owner did not make some effort to clear the snow.

While all this snow is great for those who like to snowmobile and ski, there are some precautions you should take in areas that have not been groomed for such activities. Remember that the snow is quite deep in places, so watch where you step. Also be very careful on the lake. Even though the temperatures have been quite cold, all this snow is acting like insulation and Bay Lake is quite slushy in places. Fairly large air holes have also been seen.

While you may find this guide for ice thickness useful, remember that no ice is without some risk.

Thickness	Weight
3" or 7 cm	Stay Off
4" or 10 cm	Ice Fishing Walking Cross Country Skiing
5" or 12 cm	One Snowmobile or One ATV
8-12" or 20-30 cm	One Car or One Small Pick-up
12-15" or 30-38 cm	One Medium Truck

BOATING LICENCE

We are looking at putting on an information session followed by the written test for your PCO card and would like to determine who is interested in attending.

The course will be held at the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall early in June. The information session will review the material and the test will be administered immediately following the review. The cost will be \$30.00 per person.

If you would like to attend this course, please fill in the form below and return it to us as soon as possible.

Name _____

Home Phone _____

Bay Lake Phone _____

I can attend on:

Saturday, June 9

Sunday, June 10

Either Day

SIGNBOARD

Plans are underway to make changes to the signboard, which will list all property numbers and property owner names. If you do not want your name to appear on the signboard, please indicate that on the form below.

Do not include my name on the signboard

Name _____

Lake 911 Address _____

Lake Phone _____

Make any cheques payable to the Bay Lake Property Owners Association. Either drop your completed form(s) in the suggestion box or send to:

**P.O. Box 0, Station Site 4D, R.R. #1
Emsdale, ON P0A 1J0**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are heading into the time of year when your Association becomes quite active with events and activities, all of which require some outlay of funds. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if those who have not already paid their 2000-2001 membership dues could do so. For those who have paid already, thank you for your continued support.

Your membership includes 4 issues of this newsletter per year, invitations to all events organized by the Executive, and the benefits of activities such as cleaning/creating spawning beds, stocking fish, and clean up day.

It is also important that we have the most current information on our members, so please be sure to let us know of any changes in your address and/or phone number(s).

Use this form to notify us of **change of address information**, to **pay your membership fees**, and/or to **make a donation** to the Association.

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Lake 911 Address _____

Lake Phone _____

I am enclosing a cheque for my 2000-2001 dues:

\$15.00 (1 vote at AGM)

\$20.00 (2 votes at AGM)

I am enclosing a donation to the BLPOA:

Amount: \$ _____