

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



Spring 2008

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MAY 18TH

It's that time of year again and we need your help with our major fundraiser:

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

We need people to help set up, serve and clean up. If you can spare a couple of hours that morning, please contact Cheryl or Doug (636-0222 or mail@baylakeontario.com).

DONATE ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds from the **Silent Auction** are a major contributor to our fundraising efforts. We are looking for **unused items** as well as **baked goodies** (wrapped, in non-returnable containers). If you have anything that you can donate or contribute, please contact Cheryl or Doug (636-0222 or mail@baylakeontario.com)

ATTEND THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST...

...and bring your family, friends and neighbours. The more the merrier! While there, also be ready to:

- Pay your \$20.00 membership fees;
- Make purchases at the Silent Auction;
- Buy 50/50 Draw Tickets;
- Buy Something from the Bay Lake Store (sweat shirts, t-shirts, caps, a Marlene Walker nature book – local author Marlene Walker herself will be there to sell and autograph her books).

PITCH-IN DAY

We are hoping for another fantastic day and volunteer turnout to help get rid of the road garbage around Bay Lake. Give Bill Paterson a call at 636-0568 *or* don your grubbies and grab sturdy gloves and show up at the Boat Ramp on April 26th. Last year, the final load of garbage went off to the dump at 11:30, so it'll only take a couple of hours out of your day.

We will have coffee and donuts for those who come out. If you need more arm twisting, then consider this: all participants will receive a ticket for a free Pancake Breakfast. Sweet!

This will also be the first opportunity this year to pay your membership dues and/or buy a Bay Lake shirt or hat. Hope to see you there!

Date: Saturday, April 26th
(Rain Date: Sunday, April 27th)

Time: 9:00 a.m. (for a couple of hours)

Location: Boat Ramp

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BAY LAKE CALENDAR & PHOTO CONTEST

Send your Bay Lake nature and/or activities digital photos to willyp@explornet.ca, or drop off at 501 North Bay Lake Road. Not only will they be entered in our **annual photo contest**, but Janice Paterson will include them in next year's **Bay Lake calendar**.

LAKE UPDATE

- Last year, the **lake ice** went out on April 20th. This year it will be a bit later seeing that the ice was thick enough on April 19th for 2 deer to run across it from the south side to the north side, frolick and play along the shore, then run back. There is some open water and ducks and geese have been spotted...and the loon's call has been heard.
- **Fire Permits** are once again required for outdoor fires. You can pick yours up at the Recycle Centre on Highway 592.
- The **speed limit for ATVs** on the roads surrounding Bay Lake is **20 km/hour**.
- Don't be a water polluter. Even if you **purchase biodegradable cleaning products**, don't use them directly in the lake. When buying biodegradable cleaning products, look for verification such as the EcoLogo symbol or a statement about the product's breakdown stats ("fully biodegradable within 28 days").
- **Be a responsible boater** – be careful not to spill gas into the lake when refuelling, always use a spotter when towing, watch out for other swimmers and boaters, and reduce your speed in no-wake zones.

NEW NEIGHBOURS

Have new neighbours moved in near you? If so, be sure to invite them to the next BLPOA event. If they would like to contact someone from the Association, point them to our website or have them contact Cheryl Stamper at 636.0222 or any member of the Executive.

THANK YOU

This is a special thank-you to all those who have made donations above and beyond their membership fees. We would also like to tell you how thrilled we were to receive donations from the **Make a Donation** button on the website. Your continued support helps make this organization a success.

SNOWMOBILE ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY

We received a number of complaints from property owners that someone had driven a snowmobile around the lake very close to the shoreline – so close, in fact, that they drove up and over people's docks. In one case, they didn't manage to get up and over the dock so they ended up driving right into it. In another case, they not only drove over the dock, but also over the paddle boat and canoe that were being stored on it, damaging the canoe in the process.

We are asking everyone who snowmobiles on Bay Lake to please respect the property of others and ensure their own safety. Do not drive close to the shoreline or over other people's property. If you have guests up, please relay this to them as well. Don't let one or two people give every snowmobiler a bad name.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

There is the possibility that some people on Bay Lake may be able to get wireless high speed internet access through the tower that is servicing the Clear Lake/Kearney/Emsdale corridor. If you are interested, contact Vianet (<http://www.vianet.ca> or 1.800.788.0363) and arrange for a site check. If you can get the signal, the cost will be \$149.95 for equipment and then \$49.95 per month for 1.5 Mbps high speed service (plus taxes). If you cannot get the signal, you will have to pay \$60.00 for the site check.

LOCAL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The students of Evergreen Heights Education Centre in Emsdale would like you to help them raise money to purchase school gym equipment such as volleyballs and basketballs. All you have to do is collect labels from certain food products and drop them off at Foodland in Novar or the Kearney Community Centre. Eligible products include Campbell's condensed and Chunky soups, Prego sauces and V8 beverages. For more information, contact the school at 705.636.5955.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

We are hoping to put on a Bay Lake community Garage Sale this June. If you want to sell stuff, you would pay a fee for space (around \$10.00 or \$15.00) and then set up a table or sell out of your trunk or out of your trailer.

If you would be interested in booking a spot, please call Bill Paterson at 636-056 or email garagesale@baylakeontario.com. If there is enough interest, we'll set it up.

Watch the sign board and website for details.

NATIVE PLANTS

If you are looking to plant trees or shrubs and would like to order plants that are native to this area, go to www.muskokaheritage.org and click the Plant Sale link. You can then get a list of plants with growing conditions and mature height. Your order can be placed by email, fax or through the mail. Plant pick-up and payment (cash or cheque) is on May 10th in the King Street parking lot behind the TD bank on Main Street in Huntsville.

ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

The second in this informational series, "Climate Change & Our Lakes" by Dr. David Pearson, is being held on April 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Pinegrove Fellowship Baptist Church, 295 Taylor Road in Bracebridge. For more info, click the Muskoka Heritage Foundation link on our website or call them at 705.645.7393

EARTH HOUR PARTICIPATION

A big pat on the back to all those who participated in Earth Hour on March 29th. The Executive held a meeting at 5:00 and then spent a lovely evening by candlelight and firelight with other participants. Many Bay Lakers who were not at the lake reported that they participated at home.

While we applaud everyone who took part, there were a few places around the lake whose lights brightened the night sky. Making a few changes could make a big difference:

- Switch from a timer to motion lights, or set timers to turn off earlier;
- Use lower wattage bulbs;
- Point the lights where they're needed (at the building or pathways) and not out toward the lake;
- Use or create light caps that focus the light downwards.

BAY LAKE SUPPORT OF THE HALL

As proposed at the AGM last August, Curtiss MacDonald, the BLPOA Treasurer, met with representatives of the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall to learn more about their financial status in order to make a recommendation to the BLPOA Executive on continued support.

In September, 2007, cheques totalling \$600.00 in donations were issued to the Hall to cover our contributions dating back to our 2005/2006 fiscal year. At the Executive Committee meeting held in March, 2008, additional financial support for this fiscal year was agreed to as follows:

- That we donate an additional \$150.00 to the Hall on April 1, 2008, to cover our use of the Hall for this year's Pancake Breakfast and any other use that may arise in the remainder of the 2007/2008 fiscal year.
- That we review the possibility of an additional donation this year at the BLPOA Executive meeting to be held in June 2008.

Discussions held at a number of Executive meetings resulted in agreement on the following proposal, which was presented to representatives of the Hall:

- That the BLPOA make quarterly donation payments of \$150.00 starting in our 2008/2009 fiscal year (on July 1st, October 1st, January 1st and April 1st) for an annual contribution of \$600.00.
- That we review the possibility of an additional donation to a maximum of \$200.00 at the last Executive Committee meeting of the fiscal year.

- That we confirm with the Hall that this guarantees us the following:
 - Use of the Hall on the Sunday of the May long weekend and on the Sunday of the August long weekend;
 - Access to the hall the evening prior to these events for setup if the Hall is not already booked;
 - Additional use of the Hall (at no charge) as required and agreed to by the Hall representative(s).
- That our financial support is conditional on a liaison of the BLPOA being invited to attend as a guest all meetings held by the Hall Executive.
- That we make it clear to the Hall Executive that this arrangement will require the approval of future BLPOA Executive Committees.

Bill Paterson has agreed to be the Hall Liaison. He will attend meetings held by the Hall Executive and report back on activities, decisions, financial updates, etc. It was also agreed that each member of the BLPOA Executive should try to attend at least one Hall meeting, alone or with our Liaison. Anyone attending from the BLPOA will be there as a guest or observer.

We met with Ernie Rye and Jim Hilt from the Hall and their reaction to this proposal was positive. They are looking forward to working with us in a spirit of team work and cooperation.