

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



Spring
2009

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars to attend another fabulous Pancake Breakfast on the Sunday of the May long weekend. Come out for some great **pancakes** and **sausages** with **local maple syrup**...yummmm!

And this year, we are adding a new twist – **live music!** The Muskoka Jazz Guys, led by our own Doug Banwell, have generously volunteered to provide a special ambience to the event by playing your favourite jazz standards (Ellington, Porter, and Sinatra).

We rely on **volunteers** to make this event a success, so if you can help set up, serve or clean up, please call Sherry Vey at 705-788-3724 or email mail@baylakeontario.com. If you have teenagers who are accumulating volunteer hours, then sign them up and we'll sign off on their forms.

Another important component of our Pancake Breakfast is the **Silent Auction**, which is the Association's major fundraising event of the year. To make this a success, we count on the generosity of others to **donate items, gift certificates and/or services**. Please contact Bill Paterson at 705-636-0568 if you can contribute something.

We have had a great response to our Bake Sale as well, so let Bill know if you would like to

make something for our **Bake Sale Table** (wrapped or in non-returnable containers).

The other thing you can do to help make this a success is...be there! And bring any family, friends and/or neighbours you can round up!

This is a fundraising event, so you'll have the chance to purchase items from the Silent Auction tables and buy 50/50 Draw Tickets.

You can also buy Bay Lake hats and shirts, and pay your membership dues (\$20.00 for 08/09, \$40.00 for 09/10).

We look forward to seeing you at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall on Sunday morning, May 17th!

Inside This Newsletter

Bay Lake Photos	2
Earth Hour Participation	2
Environment Report	3
Lake Plan	3
Lake Update	2
Pitch-In Day	3
Star Gazing Evening	2
The Importance of Membership	2
Wake Boats on Bay Lake	4
Website Update	2

BAY LAKE PHOTOS

If you've got photos of nature or activities around Bay Lake, we'd love to see them. Send your digital photos to jpaterson@xplornet.ca, or drop photos off at 501 North Bay Lake Road. Not only will they be entered in our annual photo contest, but they may be included in next year's Bay Lake calendar.

STAR GAZING EVENING

Since 2009 is International Year of Astronomy we'd like to organize an evening of Star Gazing where you can learn about what we see in the night sky. We're thinking of holding it at the Boat Ramp on Saturday, August 15th. There will be little or no moon to deal with that night, and the Perseid meteor shower might still be visible in the northeast sky.

We need two things to make this work: Mother Nature to cooperate with clear skies that night, and everyone to turn their lights off that evening so that we can better see the stars.

If you're interested, pencil the date in your calendars and check the next newsletter for confirmation of the event. Anyone who has a decent telescope or a good pair of binoculars should bring them along.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Your support is not only appreciated...it is essential. Without you, we're nothing! We know that a doubling of the membership dues to \$40.00 may seem a lot, but \$10.00 of that money is going directly to the Environment Fund to cover things like water testing (see the Environment Report on page 3 and the Environment Committee inserts). So, thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership, and welcome to new members. We encourage everyone to renew or join to support the work of this Association.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We have added a neat feature to the BLPOA website – an option to change the size of the text on the screen. Just click Bigger Text or Smaller Text from the link at the right.

EARTH HOUR PARTICIPATION

Congratulations and thank you to all those who participated in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 28th. Many people enjoyed a quiet evening sitting by the fire or surrounded by the soft glow of candles.

Here are a few things you could do to lessen the impact of lighting on Bay Lake:

- Switch from a timer to motion lights;
- Use lower wattage bulbs;
- Point 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.

LAKE UPDATE

- The ice went out of the lake this year on April 21/22, thanks in part to a wind storm on the 21st that blew the remaining ice to one end of the lake. If you're keeping track, last year's ice-out date was a bit later and the year before it was April 20th.
- Wildlife sightings include deer, fox and possibly a bear, plus ducks, geese and two loons. And the frogs are back in full chirp!
- A couple of annual reminders: **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. We've also been told that the police are ticketing anyone carrying a passenger on their ATV.

LAKE PLAN

The questionnaire for our Lake Plan is in the drafting stage. We hope to have it approved by the Executive before the end of the summer. We can then circulate it and start tabulating your responses.

PITCH-IN DAY

All week, the weather forecast was calling for a gorgeous day on Saturday, April 25th. By Friday, rain was forecast – but not until the afternoon. So, 9:00 Saturday morning saw 24 volunteers and 12 Executive members gather at the boat ramp then head out on the assigned routes. And 9:15 Saturday morning saw the skies open up and the rain come pouring down! Did that deter our intrepid volunteers? Not a bit! They sheltered where they could during the worst of it, but soon got back on the roads and collected lots of items for recycling and 4 bags of garbage.

This year's most interesting item: a car! Well, at least most of the parts to build one – we picked up a car seat, car battery, muffler, 4 tires plus a spare, and windshield glass.

Our sincere thanks to those who came out to do this dirty job and under such wet conditions. To those who did not get back to the Boat Ramp to pick up their Pancake Breakfast ticket – there will be one with your name on it waiting for you at the Pancake Breakfast. Just mention it to the ticket sellers.

Thanks to Bill Paterson for organizing this event again this year, and thanks to everyone who came out and pitched in!

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Environment Committee has come up with a broad plan for the testing of Bay Lake water this summer. As you can see from the inserts included with this newsletter, E-coli testing is proposed for 8 sites four times between May and September, and in addition more thorough comprehensive testing is to be conducted on 3 of those sites once in August.

While any individual test is not particularly expensive, together they represent a significant amount of money -- which we hope will be covered by the \$10.00 earmarked from the increase in the 2009/2010 membership dues. That's based on the assumption we will have the same number of members next year.

If you agree that environmental activities in general, and water testing in particular, are important, then there are ways that you can show your support:

- Renew your membership for the 2009/2010 year or, if you are not a member, join the Association.
- Look for the Environment Fund Jar at our events and make a donation.
- Sponsor a Water Testing Site. You can pick one of the 8 sites and pay for all or part of the water testing that will be done there.

If you would like to participate in this Site Sponsorship Program, contact Bill Paterson (at 705-636-0568 or willyp@explornet.ca). We have included a site map and testing chart with this newsletter so you can see where and when the testing will occur, as well as the costs.

Be sure to attend the AGM (being held this year on Sunday, August 9th at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall) to hear a report on initial testing results.

WAKE BOATS ON BAY LAKE

Last summer there were a couple of wake boats operating on Bay Lake. This caused concern among lakefront property owners who watched large, long waves batter the shoreline. In some cases, people had to make modifications to their docks to prevent them from being damaged or dislodged by the waves.

Because of the concern over wake boats that was expressed by many Bay Lake residents, we wanted to provide the following information:

WHAT ARE WAKE BOATS?

They are boats specifically designed to create a large wake. They can pick up thousands of pounds of water in order to sink the hull further into the water, and they can have a wing under the transom, each of which results in the creation of a huge continuous wake. During wake boarding, the boat is operated at speeds that ensure the maximum size of wake possible is generated.

HOW ARE WAKE BOAT WAKES DIFFERENT FROM WAVES?

Waves that occur naturally are created when wind blows across the water and they tend to be shallow and inconsistent. Wakes produced by wake boats are large, long-amplitude waves that pound the shore in an unnatural rhythm.

WHAT PART OF A LAKE DO WAKE BOAT WAKES EFFECT?

They have their greatest effect on the shoreline. Also called the riparian layer or ribbon of life, this area where water and land meet. It is both delicate and critical to the health of any lake. Large wakes, produced by ski boats and wake boats can cause shoreline erosion and damage, drown the chicks in nesting eggs, and stress the wildlife that lives along the shoreline.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON WAKE BOAT WAKES?

Because large boat wakes have been proven to cause significant damage to the shoreline, regulations have been set in place to minimize wake damage. However, these regulations were designed for ski boats – long before wake boats were invented. For instance, the restriction of operating 30 metres from shore has been generally adequate to allow the average ski boat wake sufficient time and distance to dissipate, but it is completely inadequate for the large disturbance caused by a wake boat.

WHY IS BAY LAKE SO EFFECTED BY WAKE BOAT WAKES?

Bay Lake is small. It averages about 500 meters wide in the main part of the lake, and “the Bay” is around 130 meters wide. The general consensus of concerned Bay Lake residents is that all parts of Bay Lake are too small for wake boats. There just isn’t enough room for the wakes to dissipate sufficiently.

We plan to raise the issue of the operation of wake boats on Bay Lake in the Lake Plan Questionnaire. If your responses warrant it, the Bay Lake Property Owners Association will consider petitioning Perry Township to pass a bylaw prohibiting the operation of wake boats on Bay Lake.

All boat operators are reminded that they are legally responsible for any damage caused by their wake.

Environment Committee Water Testing Proposal

At our last AGM it became quite obvious that our members felt very strongly about water quality in Bay Lake. The executive was quite moved by the outpouring of support for an Environmental Fund as well as the donations that were made on the spot to this fund.

In response, our Environment Committee has proposed an eight-site testing program that actually started in late October of last year. We are using GPS tracking to make sure that we will be comparing sites appropriately going forward, and we should be able to use the information from previous testing to do some comparisons.

Some form of testing has actually been conducted for a number of years through the Provincial Lab in Dorset - annual testing for phosphorous and regular secchi disc testing for water clarity. Much of this was done as part of the Great Canadian Dip-in started in 1996 by the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA). Thanks to a group of Bay Lake cottagers headed by the Lamberts and Hannans, we also have E-coli test results from a number of sites for three test periods in 1982.

E-coli is the prime item most folks want to know about. Resulting from human and animal excrement, E-coli levels can be controlled to some extent through the maintenance and upgrading of septic systems. Regular pumping and bed maintenance, plus shoreline planting, can drastically reduce the flow of septic waste into the lake. Wild life's contribution to E-coli can also be controlled by the size of the wild life population. For example, feeding the ducks not only increases the concentration of E-coli in the feeding area, but it can also increase the duck population and result in even more E-coli in the lake. The possibility of an influx of geese, and their contributions to E-coli levels, is also a real concern.

The drinking water standard for E-coli is <3.0 parts per 100 ml, and the recreational standard is 100 parts per 100 ml of water. While we do not expect our lake to meet the drinking water standard, any of our test results that show levels above the recreational standard must and will be reported to our local health unit.

More comprehensive testing is proposed for 3 of the 8 testing sites, covering the items listed below. These sites will give us detailed information on the water coming in to the lake (the Inlet), going out of the lake (the Outlet) and at a narrow area of the lake (the Channel).

Faecal Strep testing is important if there are a large number of ducks (feeding areas) and/or geese living on or around our lake. The reportable recreational limit is 4 parts per 100 ml.

Microcystin (or blue green algae or pond scum) are primitive microscopic plants that live in fresh water. Most forms of this are harmless but some forms (like the one in Three Mile Lake) can produce toxins which can be harmful to humans and animals.

Nitrates and Nitrites form a complicated relationship when they react in the human body which can cause a rare disease in infants (methaemoglobinaemia) and possibly gastric cancer. The presence of these compounds is usually due to contamination by decaying plant or animal material, domestic fertilizers and domestic sewage.

Total Nitrogen is the sum of Nitrogen, Ammonia and Ammonium. Nitrogen can be harmful to pregnant women and small children. High levels could indicate that manure or sewage discharge is reaching the lake.

Total Phosphorous analysis indicates if soap is in the water. High levels indicate that property owners are running soapy kitchen water or shower and bath water directly into the lake. There are no guidelines for Phosphorous but algae and most water plants feed on Phosphorous.

We have provided a map showing the 8 testing sites, as well as a chart showing the timelines and costs for the proposed testing. It is not cheap! Our full program of testing 8 sites 4 times a year for E-coli and performing comprehensive testing at 3 sites once a year will cost around \$800.00.

As directed by the membership at the last AGM, we propose to make this investment in the best interests of Bay Lake. We need your support of the new membership fees and any additional donations that you can make towards the Environment Fund to see this testing happen. You can even sponsor a site near you and pay for the cost of the testing. Contact Bill Paterson (at 705 636 0568 or willyp@explornet.ca) to reserve your spot!

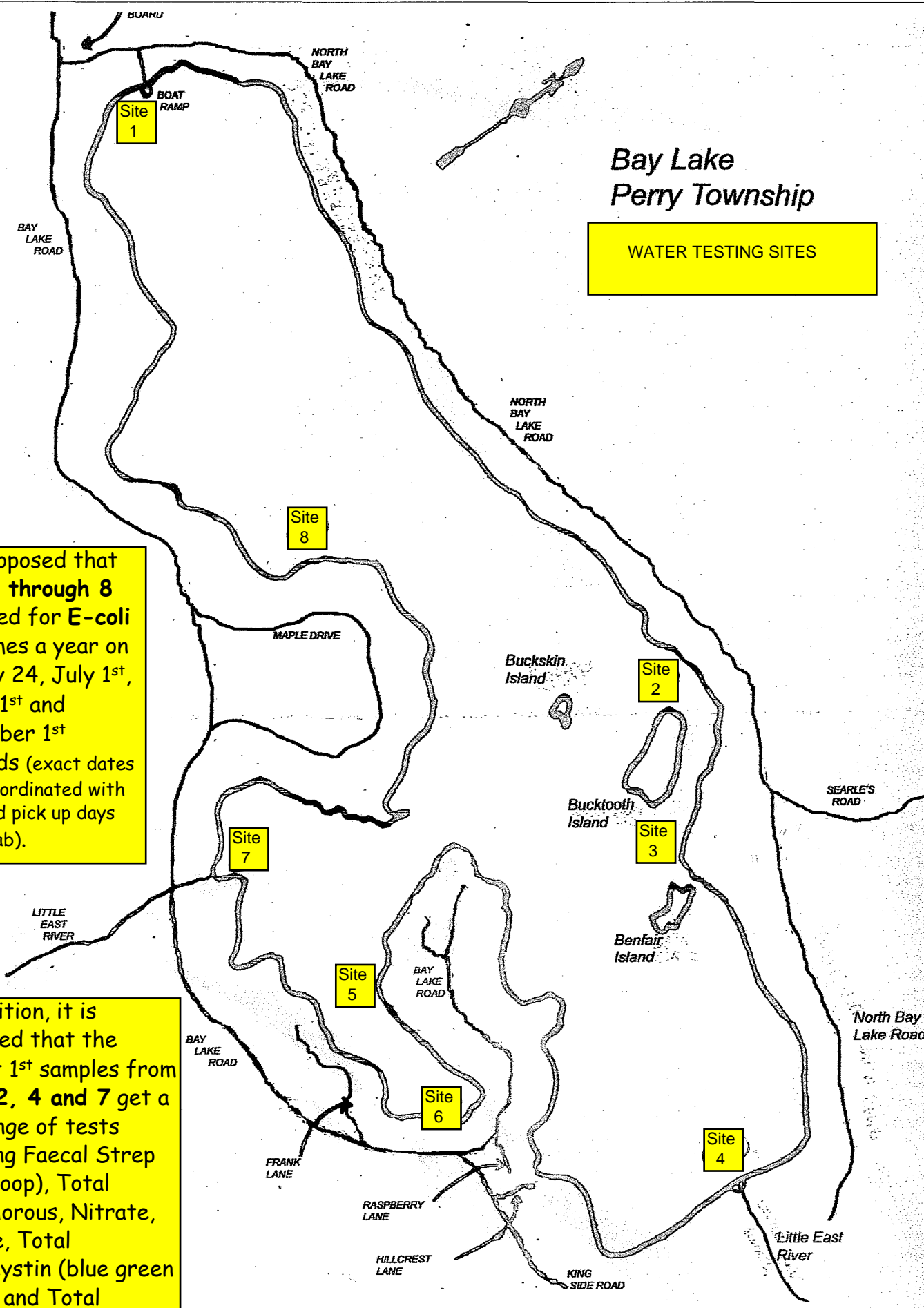
Proposed Bay Lake Testing Program

E-Coli Testing	May	July	August	September	Cost Per Site
Site 1 - Boat Ramp	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 2 - Channel	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 3 - Islands	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 4 - Inlet	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 5 - Bay Entrance	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 6 - Bay Bottom	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 7 - Outlet	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
Site 8 - Sunset Bay	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$9.85	\$39.40
<i>Total Cost of E-Coli Testing for One Year</i>					<i>\$315.20</i>

Comprehensive Testing - August	Faecal Strep	Microcystin	Nitrates	Nitrites	Total Nitrogen	Total Phosphorous	Cost Per Site
Site 2 - Channel	\$16.00	\$52.20	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$24.25	\$25.25	\$146.70
Site 4 - Inlet	\$16.00	\$52.20	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$24.25	\$25.25	\$146.70
Site 7 - Outlet	\$16.00	\$52.20	\$14.50	\$14.50	\$24.25	\$25.25	\$146.70
<i>Total Cost of Comprehensive Testing for One Year</i>							<i>\$440.10</i>

Grand Total Cost of All Testing for One Year **\$755.30**

Sponsor a Site!								
E-Coli Only Comprehensive Only Both	Site 1 Boat Ramp	Site 2 Channel	Site 3 Islands	Site 4 Inlet	Site 5 Bay Entrance	Site 6 Bay Bottom	Site 7 Outlet	Site 8 Sunset Bay
	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40	\$39.40
		\$146.70		\$146.70			\$146.70	
		\$186.10		\$186.10			\$186.10	



Bay Lake
Perry Township

WATER TESTING SITES

It is proposed that **Sites 1 through 8** be tested for **E-coli** four times a year on the May 24, July 1st, August 1st and September 1st weekends (exact dates will be coordinated with scheduled pick up days for the lab).

In addition, it is proposed that the August 1st samples from **Sites 2, 4 and 7** get a full range of tests covering Faecal Strep (bird poop), Total Phosphorous, Nitrate, Nitrite, Total Microcystin (blue green algae), and Total Nitrogen.