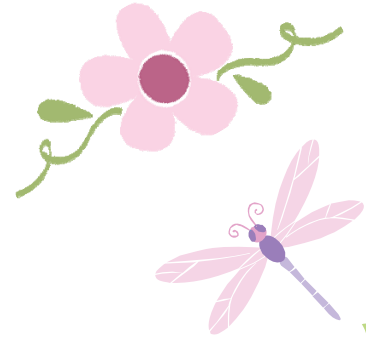


Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



Spring 2010



ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MAY 23RD

Yes, it's that time of year again – time for some **delicious pancakes, local maple syrup** and **sausages**. Be sure to make plans to be at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall on the Sunday of the May long weekend.

And back by popular demand – **live music!** The **Muskoka Jazz Guys**, led by our own Doug Banwell, will once again provide a special ambience to the event by playing your favourite jazz standards (Ellington, Porter, and Sinatra). You will also have the chance to book the Muskoka Jazz Guys for your own event by bidding on their item at the Silent Auction.

The **Silent Auction** that we hold in conjunction with the Pancake Breakfast is your Association's major fundraising event of the year. To make this a success, we count on the generosity of others to **donate new items, gift certificates and/or services**.

Or you could make something for our **Bake Sale Table** (wrapped or in non-returnable containers). These goodies always get a great response!

Please contact Sherry Vey at 705-788-3724 if you can contribute something.

If you have any teenagers who are accumulating volunteer hours for school, then

sign them up to **volunteer** to set up, serve or clean up and we'll sign off on their forms. If you or anyone in your family would like to help, please call Sherry Vey at 705-788-3724 or email mail@baylakeontario.com.

Only you can make this a success, so please plan to be there! And bring any family, friends and/or neighbours you can round up! And don't forget to bring some money for all the fun things you can spend it on -- Silent Auction items, 50/50 Draw tickets, Bay Lake hats and shirts...and even your membership dues!

We look forward to seeing you at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall on Sunday morning, May 23rd any time between 9:00 and noon.

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LOONS

Loons spend their winters near the Gulf Coast of Florida then return in the spring. Since young loons return to the area where they were hatched, they must either settle on a vacant lake nearby or take over territory by challenging an existing resident. When a male loon is prospecting for a territory, it often flies over the lake giving a vocalization called the "flying tremolo." The resident male usually responds with a "yodel".

Loons use 3 vocalizations: the wail (mainly a gathering call); the tremolo, (often given in response to a threat); and the yodel, (2 or 3 introductory notes followed by a series of repeated phrases given only by the male). Each male has his own characteristic yodel that differs from that of other males in the area. Interestingly, if a male changes territory he also changes his yodel...making it as different as possible from that of the previous resident.

Both males and females will fight over territory. If a prospecting male lands on a territory, it usually swims over to join the resident pair then swims in circles and splash dives. If a loon becomes aggressive it can chase other loons, grab them by the bill, beat them with their wings, or even hold them underwater to drown. When a loon dives, any loon still on the surface looks underwater almost constantly because these birds have been known to surface bill-first and spear their opponent through the sternum into the heart!

The male chooses the nest site, and he will switch to a new location if reproduction was unsuccessful. For loons to be successful, they need fish for food, a nest site on the shore (or preferably an island), and a sheltered place to rear chicks. Loons reportedly live for 20-30 years and - contrary to popular belief - they do not mate for life.

Excerpted from an article in the Winter 2010, Number 50, issue of Bird Watch Canada by Dr. Charles Walcott.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The environment committee has decided to make a few adjustments to our water testing program:

- Two additional sites will be added to our E-coli testing (which is done 4 times a year), and a couple of last year's sites will be moved slightly. The Comprehensive testing (which is done once a year) will be done on the same three sites as last year.
- The Phosphorous test will be dropped as it appears to duplicate the free testing done for the Lake Partners Program. If the results from the Lake Partners Program testing show a dramatic change, we can reintroduce the test back into our Comprehensive testing.

An updated map showing this year's testing sites will be posted on our website and on the bulletin board next to our Sign Board.

The Adopt-A-Site program will once again be offered, where people can pay for some or all of the testing at a particular site. Exact costs have not yet been determined, but we estimate E-coli testing will cost just over \$80.00 per site for the 4 tests that will be done this year. The cost of the Comprehensive test will be approximately \$120.00 for each of the three sites. If you would like to sponsor a site, please contact Bill Paterson (636-0518 or willyp@xplornet.ca).

The first E-coli testing will be done on the May 24th weekend, and the Comprehensive testing will be done in early August. The results will be presented at the AGM.

In addition to water testing, the Environment Committee is looking into building a **Loon Nesting Platform** to help the loons lay and hatch their eggs. They would also like to remove the old **Wood Duck Boxes** around the lake and replace them with new ones.



WEBSITE UPDATE

You may have noticed that Google Ads now appear at the bottom of each page of our website. These are 'contextually targeted ads' which means they should all be relevant to cottaging and living on a lake and our area. Google's computers "read" the text of our website and automatically direct ads to us based on our content. No humans intervene in the selection of the ads and we have no direct control over what gets placed there.

We added them because it's an easy way to make a little bit of money for our Association. Each time someone clicks an ad, 30¢ gets forwarded to us. Not a lot of money, but every bit helps!

So, if you see an ad that interests you, by all means give it a click. It's safe and may even be helpful.

EARTH HOUR PARTICIPATION

Thanks to all who participated in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 27th by turning out their lights. Judging by the number of lights visible on the lake (very few), it seems that this is becoming an annual event for many!

As a reminder, there are a few things you can do year-round 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.

A SPECIAL DONATION

Jack Podwinski has been encouraging people to drop off beer cans, aluminum cans and pull tabs, and liquor and beer bottles at his home. He returns refundable bottles and cans to recover the deposit and sells the aluminum as scrap. Jack recently presented the association with the proceeds of this activity and the Fish Fund is now \$95.00 richer. What a great team effort! Thank you to Jack and to all who participate.

PITCH-IN DAY

The weather was perfect as more than a dozen volunteers joined members of the Executive at the Boat Ramp to pick up their route maps and supplies and head out to clean up our roads. The Environment Committee expressed their thanks by giving out free Pancake Breakfast tickets.

The event was once again masterfully organized by Bill Paterson, and we thank him for his efforts.

What stood out the most this year was that most volunteers found that there was relatively little garbage to be picked up! One reason was that a trio of ATV'ers had started at the Bay end of Bay Lake Road and cleaned up on their way to the Boat Ramp. Another was the fact that garbage on Rochester Lake Road had already been picked up on Earth Day by a separate group from Perry Lake. We coordinated our efforts by having them drop their garbage at the Boat Ramp and we took it to the dump. There was quite a pile waiting for us on Saturday morning...and we thank them for their efforts!

LAKE UPDATE

Ice Out Date

- The ice was completely gone from the lake on **April 1st** this year. This is a good 3 weeks earlier than we've seen in previous years.

Annual Reminders

- **Fire Permits** are once again required for outdoor fires and are available at the Recycle Centre on Highway 592 (check the **Fire Risk Sign** on Bay Lake road for the current risk level – we've already had fire bans due to dry conditions this year);
- The **ATV speed limit** on the roads surrounding Bay Lake is 20 km/hour.

CANADA POST CHANGES

New BLPOA Address

As reported in the last issue, Canada Post gave away our mailbox and so we have had to make new arrangements. Please use the following address to send us anything by mail:

- **PO Box 120**
Novar, ON P0A 1R0

Civic Addresses

The Post Office has informed us that due to changes they will be making to their sorting and delivery processes, you no longer need to include your site and box number as part of your address. All you need is:

Your civic address
Emsdale, ON P0A 1R0

For example, if you want to send me something, just address it to 773 Bay Lake Road, Emsdale, ON P0A 1J0.

NIGHT SKY ACTIVITIES

Perseid Meteor Shower

Your best chance to see the Perseid Meteorites is to look to the northeast sky after midnight on **Thursday, August 12th**.

Star Gazing Evening

Last year's attempt to hold our first Star Gazing evening was spoiled by the weather. But we are not letting that deter us! We're going to try again on **Saturday, August 14th**.

We're hoping the weather will cooperate with clear skies, and that people will turn their exterior lights out for a few hours that evening so that we can get the best view of the stars...and maybe even see some meteorites!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You may or may not be aware that the outlet from Bay Lake goes through the Cowden family property and that there has been an agreement in place for over 10 years between the BLPOA and the Cowdens regarding control of the flow of water out of the lake. Recently, Perry Township and the Cowden family have entered into negotiations to exchange the ownership of land along the road for land along the shore. Part of this exchange will be a formal agreement regarding activities at the outlet to control the water level.

Members of the Executive have attended meetings with the Township and the Cowden family to provide input into the agreement as it pertains to these activities. Once this agreement is finalized and the land exchange has been approved, then we will enter into an agreement with the Township to manage activities at the outlet.

More information will be provided as it becomes available. In the meantime, we would like to thank the Cowden family for their willingness to work with us on this.