

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



...2009



OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, August 9th
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall
BYOM: Bring your own mug!

As you know, the vote on moving the date of the AGM from the August long weekend to the Sunday after was overwhelmingly in support of this change...so we expect record attendance on the new date!

By attending, you will hear about the activities of the Executive during this past year, including a Treasurer's, Membership, and Lake Plan report, and an Environment report which will outline the results of the water testing done this year, including the latest sample that will be taken just before the AGM.

We will also be electing a new Executive and need new volunteers to replace those who are not returning (see Executive Committee News on page 4 for more information).

The meeting will start off on a great note -- Julia Phillips from the **Toronto Zoo's Adopt-a-Pond program** will discuss how you can get involved in wetland conservation projects on and around your own property! You will also discover how to observe and protect common wetland species such as frogs and turtles by becoming a **Frog Watcher** or

Turtle Tallier! This presentation is great for people of all ages.

Julia will be bringing Frog Watch and Turtle Tally pamphlets and magnets, as well as some turtle and frog ID cards, turtle and frog ID posters, and frog call CDs for those who are interested. We will set up a Donation Box for the Adopt-a-Pond program to offset the cost of these items.

A representative of Perry Township will be on hand following the meeting to answer any questions you have about things going on in the Township.

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Also at the **AGM** you can:

- Pay your **membership fees** -- \$20.00 for 2008/2009; **\$40.00 for 2009/2010** (you must be paid up for 08/09 to vote at the meeting);
- Win one of **3 door prizes** (Gorilla Vinyl Air Mattress, Mega Chill Floater, Sports Bag);
- Purchase a t-shirt, sweatshirt, hat or nature book;
- Join the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall Association (\$10.00) or make a donation.

Please come out and support your Association. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, August 9th.

FUN TIMES

Pancake Breakfast

We want to thank those who braved the cold and came out to support this event. We served 185 breakfasts, which is not bad considering it snowed that day! Those who did come out, however, got a special treat this year – live jazz music compliments of the Muskoka Jazz Guys. Many thanks to them for donating their talents, to Susan Friedman for supplying the fresh fruit, to the Wilkins for supplying the maple syrup door prize, and to Trish Lambert for supplying the lovely flowers for the tables.

Once again, our Silent Auction table was a huge success, raising around \$1,500.00. We extend a huge thanks to the individuals and businesses that donated items to it. Please visit our website and click the Supporters link to see a list of the businesses that donated.

This event could not be a success without the many volunteers who help out. We say a big *Thank You* to everyone who helped –the cooks

and servers, the table setters and cleaners, the beverage and condiment servers, and everyone else who was involved.

Congratulations to Steve Morris on winning the door prize, and to Don MacMillan on winning \$160.00 in the 50/50 draw.

Fun Day

What a great day we had! The weather even tried to be summer-like for us! Our returning Recreational Director, James Allen, with the help of volunteer Michael Heaton, did a great job of keeping the kids entertained and involved with lots of games and prizes. Even the adults got in on the fun with water balloon tosses. And this year's gold fish races were a big success! Most of the kids and even some of the adults treated themselves to a face painting by Janice Paterson (the pictures are featured on the home page of our website).

Over 125 people came out to enjoy the day as well as the hot dogs (15 dozen of them!) and soft drinks. The Baileys were the winners of the 50/50 draw and generously donated their half of \$118.00 back to the Association. Thank you to the Baileys...to all the volunteers...and to the participants.

SIGNBOARD DIRECTORY LISTING

The directory listing that is posted on the Bay Lake Signboard will be updated following the AGM. Only those people who have paid their dues for 2009/2010 will have their property listed.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE

You can make a donation or pay your BLPOA membership online. Just grab your credit card, go to www.baylakeontario.com and click the appropriate button on the Contribute page.

ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES

The Environment Committee has been active on a number of fronts. **Water samples** continue to be collected and sent in for e-coli testing. The next testing will be done before the AGM so that the results to date can be presented at that meeting. Bill Paterson and Judy Dunn went above and beyond to get the last samples collected during the pouring rain, looking like a couple of 'drowned rats' when they finally came in to dock!

Thanks to those who generously sponsored one of the testing sites:

- ♦ Sarah & David Adams (Sunset Bay)
- ♦ Lee & Al Davidson (Inlet)
- ♦ Josie Stamper (Bay Bottom)
- ♦ Sherry & Glen Vey (Outlet)
- ♦ Trish & Dick Lambert (Comprehensive Testing)

Many thanks also to the team that came out to conduct the **Benthic Testing** – Doug Banwell, Lee Davidson, John & Judy Dunn, Bill & Janice Paterson, and Cheryl Stamper. The sun shone until the very end when Casey Cook of the District Municipality of Muskoka was counting and cataloguing the final samples. We hope to have a report on the results for the AGM.

Members of the Executive and Environment Committee also attended a **seminar on algae in our lakes**. Our connection with the Muskoka Watershed Council continues to be a fabulous source of information and support.

BOATING REGULATIONS

Starting September 15th, all pleasure craft operators will be required to carry a proof of competency document on board. All boaters are encouraged to take a boating safety course, and some insurance companies are providing incentives for those who take the training. You can visit www.boatingsafety.ca for more information and a list of course providers.

WELL WATER

“Well Aware” is a program that offers a free 90-minute home visit to show how to maintain your well and septic system properly. It includes a visual inspection of your dug or drilled well and septic, an inspection of the area surrounding your well and septic, recommendations on what can be changed or fixed, and instructions on how to properly take a water sample.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Cheryl Stamper (636-0222 or cheryl@cherylstamper.com).

There is no cost for this program, nor is there any obligation to follow through on the site inspection recommendations.

LAKE PLAN UPDATE

Recently, Doug Banwell, acting chair of our Lake Plan Committee, met with Perry Township Clerk Brenda Fraser and Councillor John Dunn to discuss our Lake Plan process. Now armed with copies of both the township Official Plan and the most recently approved Zoning By-Law document, the Lake Plan Committee will continue preparation of the Lake Plan Questionnaire that we will distribute to all Bay Lakers in the near future.

Vital to a successful Lake Plan is the involvement of people around Bay Lake. The more people who participate by filling out the questionnaire, the more weight our Lake Plan will carry. Since we will need to engage all the various levels of government (the township, the province and the federal government), we want our Lake Plan document to have as much local endorsement as possible.

Doug will be speaking about the Lake Plan process at our upcoming AGM.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

Many thanks to those people who have served on the Executive but will not be returning: Steven and Leanne Witt, Lori Heaton, Steve Morris and Bill Paterson.

This means that **we need a minimum of 3 people to join the Executive** this year. We try to meet monthly (not always possible during the winter months) to review the work of the committees and plan the social events.

With Bill Paterson's decision not to sit on the Executive next year, we are looking for a new Environment Committee Chair. This person would coordinate the activities of the Environment Committee and report back to the Executive.

Whether you take on a specific position or sit as a member at large, joining the Executive gives you an opportunity to participate in this worthy Association, meet new people and have lots of fun!

If you're interested please step forward at the AGM on Sunday, August 9th, or you can contact Cheryl Stamer at 636-0222.

OTHER STUFF

- Water levels are high due to the amount of rain we've had on top of the record snowfall last winter. This means that boat wakes are having a greater impact on our shorelines. Please be aware of the effect of your boat wake and try to minimize any damage it may cause.
- There has been an increase in the sightings of porcupines, bears and loose dogs. This is not a good mix! Please keep your pet safe by ensuring it stays close, and make sure it has a proper collar and tags in case it does get loose.

STAR GAZING EVENING

DATE: Saturday, August 15th

TIME: 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: The Boat Ramp

BONUS: Win a Bay Lake Shirt

We are hoping that the weather will cooperate and provide clear skies on the evening of Saturday, **August 15th** so that we can gather **at the boat ramp** and learn about what's in our night sky. The quarter moon will have set early that night and, as an added bonus, we might be able to see some shooting stars from the Perseid meteor shower which peaks just a few days before.

We are asking everyone whose property can be seen from the boat ramp to please **turn off all outdoor lights from 9:00 p.m. until 2 a.m.** to give the star gazers the best possible night sky viewing.

We suggest the star gazers bring: binoculars, telescopes, bug spray, chairs (recliners are good), plus clothing layers and/or blankets appropriate for the weather.

CORN ROAST

Because the weather has been so unreliable lately, and because of the difficulties of putting on an event outdoors in the dark, we have decided to move the Corn Roast to the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall this year. We've also moved the date to the Labour Day weekend in the hopes that more people will be up and able to attend.

If the weather is good, we can head to the boat ramp for a bonfire after we've finished with the food and fun at the Hall.

DATE: Sunday, September 6th

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall