

# Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



Winter ...



... 2009

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## OUR PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

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Planning for this, our major fundraiser of the year, can never start soon enough...and we need all the help we can get! You could assist us greatly by:

- Donating new (not used) items for the Silent Auction tables;
- Baking goodies for our Bake Sale table;
- Volunteering to help out during the event (setting tables, washing dishes, cooking pancakes – and lots more!);
- Attending the event – with as many friends and family members as possible!!

Every item on the Silent Auction tables brings money into the Association. You may have things you don't need, or work for or shop at businesses that would donate items. If you do have anything to contribute, please contact Bill Paterson at 705-636-0568.

Sherry Vey is coordinating the volunteers, so please call her at 705-788-3724. If your kids are in school and need to put in their community service hours, then sign them up too! We are happy to sign the forms to credit the hours worked.

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## AGM DATE CHANGE

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In our last Newsletter, we asked people to let us know if they were in favour of changing the date of the AGM from the August long weekend to the Sunday following. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of changing the date (21 : 5). Therefore, we have changed our Hall booking, and added the new date on the BLPOA calendar. Please update your own schedules so that you can attend the AGM:

When: **Sunday, August 9, 2009**

Where: Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall

We hope that this date change will result in a greater turnout for this important meeting.

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## THE FALL CORN ROAST

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The rainy weather that plagued us all summer was still around at the end of September when we put on the annual Corn Roast. However, the 55 people in attendance all managed to enjoy the corn, sausages and chilli before the rain came and chased some of them away. At the end of the evening, we gave away the surplus corn and many of those who did stick around were able to take home what many called the best corn of the season.

We collected \$168.00 in 50/50 ticket sales. The winner of half was Doug Banwell (Cheryl Stamper pulled the winning ticket but swears it was not a fix!).

We would like to thank those who donated to the General, Fish or Environment funds. We raised \$200.00 through your generosity.

We are thinking of holding the next Corn Roast at the Hall on the Labour Day weekend. We could have the food there and then maybe head to the boat ramp for the fire, weather permitting. We'd love some feedback on this idea, so please contact a member of the Executive if you have an opinion on this.

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## NATIONAL PITCH-IN DAY

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Bill Paterson has agreed to coordinate this event again this year, and so we need volunteers to come out and clean up the garbage around our roads and ditches. The Bay Lake Pitch-In Day will be held on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** (rain date of Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - the Bay Lake Calendar shows Pitch-In Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> by mistake) from **9:00 a.m.** until all the garbage is bagged (no later than 12:00 noon).

We will provide coffee and donuts, as well as a Free Pancake Breakfast ticket as a thank-you to the volunteers who come out. Contact Bill Paterson at 636-0568 to sign up and join us **at the Boat Ramp** on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

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## EARTH HOUR

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Last year, 50 million people around the world cared enough about climate change to turn their lights off for an hour. That included almost half the adults in Canada - and many people at Bay Lake! Let's do it again this year.

**When:** Saturday, *March 28<sup>th</sup>*  
from *8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

**What You Do:** *Turn out your lights.*

That's it...it's that simple!

Those at Bay Lake are welcome to douse their lights then come over to the Stamper place (773 Bay Lake Road) to enjoy the darkness and the company of other participants.

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## WEBSITE UPDATE

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There is now a button to pay your 2009/2010 membership fees. As you know, those in attendance at the AGM voted to raise fees to \$40.00 per year, with \$10.00 of that going directly to the Environment fund.

If you have not already paid your dues for 2008/2009, please use the corresponding button for the \$20.00 fee.

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## BAY LAKE CALENDAR

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We sold out our print run of the 2009 Bay Lake calendar and made almost \$400.00 for the Association. Many thanks to Janice Paterson for once again collecting - and taking -- a number of local photos, and many thanks to those who bought calendars.

We'd like to encourage everyone to submit digital photos from around Bay Lake so they can be entered in our Photo Contest (one entry per category - Nature, Cottage Critters, Activities). The winners will be included in next year's calendar. Email your submissions to [willyp@xplore.net.ca](mailto:willyp@xplore.net.ca).

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## KEEP BAY LAKE HEALTHY

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- Shoppers Drug Mart has introduced a line of biodegradable products under its Bio-Life brand. Both the dish soap and bathtub cleaner have gotten rave reviews from various Bay Lake testers, and there are other products available as well. Whether you use Bio-Life, Ecover, Nature Clean, Rona eco, or other biodegradable products, our lake will thank you for it!
- Check your calendars...or your memory...or your past bills – is your septic system due to be cleaned this year? If it's been 3-5 years since its last cleaning, then the answer is Yes! Septic cleaning companies have been known to give a discount if there are multiple jobs on the same run, so talk to your neighbours and arrange to fill the truck!
- Thinking about making changes to your property or shoreline? Remember these Do's and Don'ts: DO maintain or create a Ribbon of Life consisting of plants & shrubs along the shoreline. DO NOT plant grass, especially leading down to the water. DO NOT use fertilizer on any grass you do have. DO NOT bring in sand to create a beach. DO your part to keep Bay Lake healthy!

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## FOND FAREWELLS

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It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Flo Keeton, wife of Harold Keeton, last November. The Keetons have been on Bay Lake, and were active in the Association, for many years. Our condolences go out to Harold and the family.

*It is our policy to mention people in our Fond Farewells column only on request. If you would like us to include information on someone, please contact a member of the Executive with the details.*

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## WINTER UPDATE

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This December again saw lots of snow fall (more than double the average at more than 170 cm). Some rainfall followed by cold night-time temperatures (below -30°) have allowed the lake surface to freeze and snowmobile & ATV traffic has been seen.

A big windstorm that hit the province took the power out for a 3-day stretch between Christmas and New Year's. While Hydro One was busy trying to get serviced restored, their toll-free number proved to be an excellent source of information. Just call 1-800-434-1235 and have your 10-digit account number handy. Once a ticket has been created for your call, you can get an automated estimate of when the power is expected to be restored.

The windstorm also took down a big old Hemlock tree on North Bay Lake Road. The Patersons tried counting the rings in a six-foot circumference cross-section and made a guess that the tree was at least 250 years old! The people and the animals who enjoyed this beautiful bit of nature will certainly miss it.

### Annual Winter Reminders

- **DO NOT DRIVE full-sized vehicles onto the ice.**
- **Be a considerate snowmobiler** -- drive around the boat ramp, keeping to the north side so as not to damage the concrete, and do not drive over people's docks.
- Snowmobile trail conditions can be checked at the following sites:  
Parry Sound [www.pssd.ca](http://www.pssd.ca)  
Muskoka [www.msrsnowtrails.com](http://www.msrsnowtrails.com)  
Near North [www.nnta.net](http://www.nnta.net)
- If you park at one of the road turn-arounds, be sure to leave enough room for the snow plows to manoeuvre.

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

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The BLPOA has initiated a **Lake Plan** process. Recent events, such as the toxic algae blooms in neighbouring lakes, illustrate the importance of vigilance on our own lake.

A Lake Plan is a document which describes the current state of our physical community and outlines suggestions for the future stewardship of our lake. The Lake Plan may also suggest changes to the Township of Perry Official Plan and Zoning By-laws that will further protect the character and health of Bay Lake.

Perhaps the most significant feature of this plan is the process of consultation with Bay Lakers. Through meetings and questionnaires, we hope to record the wishes and preferences of Bay Lake stakeholders regarding activities that affect the character and health of Bay Lake. To start, a questionnaire will be distributed in 2009, and the results of that questionnaire will be used to draft the Plan.

This questionnaire will give everyone on our lake a chance to express their views on a wide range of issues. Where a majority of responses indicate a clear preference, that opinion will be reflected in the Lake Plan.

But first the questionnaire must be assembled. The Lake Plan Committee is anxious to address all the issues of importance to the people at Bay Lake, so we're asking for your suggestions about what topics should be covered. Our list of issues currently includes the following:

Water Quality • Water Levels • Septic Issues • Pollution (of all types – water, air, light, noise) • Fishing • Safety and Security • Wildlife (beavers, bears, geese, etc.) • Boats • Boat Ramp • Jeep in the Lake • Snowmobiles • Shoreline Naturalization • ATVs • Community Activities • Development • Roads • the Outlet.

If you have any other topics that you would like to see addressed in the questionnaire, mail them to Site 4D, Box 0, Emsdale, ON P0A 1J0, email them to [lakeplan@baylakeontario.com](mailto:lakeplan@baylakeontario.com), or give them to a member of the Executive, by March 1st. Thank you!



Late last fall, the **Environment Committee** took samples from 8 sites around the lake and submitted them for E-coli testing. Because of the lateness of the year, we didn't really expect to find much, and the only site that registered anything (the numbers were well under Provincial Guidelines) was in the small bay at the outlet. The GPS co-ordinates of the sites were recorded so that we can be reasonably accurate in getting samples from the same spots for future testing.

We plan to test the 8 sites again for E-coli 4 times (in the spring, early summer, late summer and the fall). In addition we will do 1-3 sites with a comprehensive testing to show the general health of the water. Our Secchi disc and Phosphorous testing will continue to be done at no charge (thanks to the Lake Partners Program), and we will do another round of Benthic testing hopefully with more sites this year (thanks to the District of Muskoka).

By the end of this year we should have actual figures and charts to show the health of our lake and be in the position of monitoring the status for years to come.

Our plan for water testing in this coming year will depend on funding. E-coli testing costs about \$175.00 for each testing session of 8 sites (\$175x4=\$700), while the comprehensive testing costs in the neighbourhood of \$450.00 per site (\$450x3=\$1350). The \$10.00 from the membership fee increase that has been earmarked for Environment activities will help, as will the donations people make toward this cause.