

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com

2010



EVENTS UPDATE

Participation is key to all events and we hope you will be there with us.

Earth Hour

Saturday, March 27th

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

This has been a huge success around the world for the last couple of years, and we're proud to say that many Bay Lakers have participated as well. All you have to do is turn off your lights on **Saturday, March 27th** from **8:30 pm until 9:30 pm**.

Pitch-In Day

Saturday, April 24th

9:00 a.m. - noon

Bill Paterson always does a great job of coordinating this event, so all you need to do is show up at the **Boat Ramp** by **9:00 a.m.** on **Saturday, April 24th** (rain date of Sunday, April 25th) to pick up your supplies and road assignment to help clean up the garbage around our roads and ditches. We usually have all the garbage sorted and on its way to the dump before noon.

As in past years, 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 the morning of April 25th.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 23rd

9:00 a.m. - noon

The May two-four weekend actually falls on May 24th this year. That means our big event will be held on **Sunday, May 23rd** at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall. Mark it in your calendars now and plan to be there!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Bay Lake Shopping.....	2
BLPOA Mail	3
Fond Farewells	3
Nature.....	4
Our Dump.....	2
Things of Interest	3
Winter Update	2

WINTER UPDATE

This has been a much easier winter than last year – less snow and milder temperatures. We would like to say a special thank-you to the gentleman who has created our ice road along the north shore between the boat ramp and almost up to the little island. He has kept it plowed, making it easy for people – and their dogs – to walk the lake.

New Winter Parking Rules

In previous years, there was an agreement with the Township that allowed people to park in snowplow turn-around areas. Unfortunately, the Township can no longer abide by this agreement due to the fact that they are using larger vehicles that need more room to turn around. The Township has posted notices, and they will be tagging and towing vehicles that are parked in the turn-around areas on all Township roads (yes, that includes North Bay Lake Road!). These larger vehicles also need more room on the road, so if you park there you may get a ticket. If don't have your own winter parking spot, try to arrange with a neighbour for parking space.

Annual Winter Reminders

- We want to avoid another incident of having a vehicle go through the ice, so please **do not drive full-sized vehicles onto the ice**.
- **Be a considerate snowmobiler** -- do not drive over people's docks, and be sure to drive around the boat ramp, keeping to the north side so as not to damage the concrete. It looks like most people have been doing that this year, but there are some tracks on the ramp itself.
- Snowmobile trail conditions can be checked at the following sites:
Parry Sound www.pssd.ca
Muskoka www.msrsnowtrails.com
Near North www.nnta.net

BAY LAKE SHOPPING

Calendars

We have a couple of calendars left, so if you want one you can:

- Go to the [Online Shopping, Payments and Donations](#) link on our website (www.baylakeontario.com) and click the Calendar **Buy Now** button on the website and pay with your credit card; or...
- Contact Janice Paterson at 636-0568, 501 North Bay Lake Road, and place your order.

Shirts and Hats

Bay Lake sweatshirts – and t-shirts –in a variety of colours and a choice of embroidered design (a loon or a dragon fly) can be ordered from Sherry Vey (705-788-3784).

We also have Bay Lake hats– bucket or baseball style –embroidered with either a loon or a dragon fly.

OUR DUMP

Things are a'changin at the old Dump.

Tires

You can now drop off used tires – but be sure to leave the rims behind as they won't take those.

E-waste

You can also now drop off e-waste (electronic items such as computers, TV's, etc.). There is no charge for either of these leavings.

Hazardous Waste Day

Mark this date in your calendar: Saturday, July 10th from 9:00 until 3:00. Then gather up all your hazardous waste and take it to the dump that day to get rid of it free of charge.

FOND FAREWELLS

Many people will be saddened to learn of the death of Josie Stamper, wife of Fred and mother of Cheryl, on December 15, 2009. Having experienced declining health for the past two years, Josie was unable to overcome the effects of a stroke in early December. Josie was fortunate enough to have enjoyed life at Bay Lake for over 40 years. Her sweet smile and gentle nature will be greatly missed.

A memorial will be held at the Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall on Saturday, May 29th at 3:00. All are welcome.

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.



BLPOA MAIL

Much to our surprise, the Post Office gave away the BLPOA mailbox - without even letting us know! One week we were picking up membership cheques and calendar orders, and the next week the lock was cut off and the box reassigned.

So, if you sent in a cheque for membership and that cheque has not been cashed, or if you ordered a calendar and did not receive it, please let us know.

You can reach us by mail at the following address:

BLPOA
c/o Membership Coordinator
101 Maple Drive
Emsdale ON P0A 1J0

THINGS OF INTEREST

Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to spring ahead on March 14th!

Meteor Shower

Every year in late April Earth passes through the dusty tail of Comet Thatcher and the encounter causes a meteor shower called the Lyrids. This year the shower peaks on Wednesday morning, April 22nd. The best time to look is during the dark hours before dawn. Forecasters expect 10 to 20 meteors per hour visible from dark-sky sites.

Experienced meteor watchers suggest that you dress warmly, bring a reclining chair or spread a thick blanket over a flat spot of ground, and lie down and look up somewhat toward the east toward the constellation Lyra or the bright star Vega.

Night Sky

Venus is by far the easiest planet to see with the naked eye and outshines all the other planets with its brilliant white light. It comes closer to the Earth than any other planet.

Saturn appears pale yellow to the naked eye. Its famous rings can be seen with a small telescope, and they will be at their fullest again in 2017. You can sometimes see Titan, Saturn's largest moon, with small binoculars as well.

Mars is easily recognised because of its reddish colour. This is caused by the presence of iron oxide (rust) on the planet's surface. Because of its eccentric orbit, Mars' distance from the Earth varies considerably. Being only half the size of Earth, it can be difficult to observe, but a small telescope can show one of its polar caps and some bluish-grey surface markings. Its two moons, Phobos and Deimos, can only be seen with medium and large-sized telescopes.

It appears that this spring Saturn will be the brightest planet in the sky.

Thanks to Martin J. Powell's [Naked Eye Planets](#) website.

Woodpeckers

Lovely to look at...lovely to hear - except maybe when they find a particularly resonant part of your home! Have you ever wondered why...or how...woodpeckers drum like that? As to the why, the drumming you hear is the males and females communicating with each other and defining their territory. Luckily, this will last for only a few weeks.

As for how, woodpeckers have physical features that serve them well for hammering on hard surfaces. Their beaks are straight, have a chisel-like tip, and are strengthened by special ridges. Their skull structure helps protect their brains from repeated impacts. Even the angle a woodpecker strikes at provides protection in that it directs the impact to an area below the brain case. Their ears are half the size of other birds and are protected by an extra-thick membrane

The tapping of a woodpecker serves a different function -- to find hollow chambers or recesses in trees that might contain food.

Woodpeckers nest in cavities in trees, and it is the male who excavates the nest to get it ready for the eggs. The male also shares in the incubation of the eggs and in the feeding of the nestlings. Freed up from the 24-hour care of their eggs and offspring, females can - and often do - have more than one nest with different partners at the same time.

While you usually find woodpeckers alone or in pairs, they don't seem to mind if other woodpeckers are near by.

The way woodpeckers excavate trees helps them play a key role in the forest. The cavities they create serve as habitat for other birds and mammals, such as chickadees, bluebirds, starlings, ducks, fisher, pine marten, squirrels, bats, and chipmunks - and even wasps and bees! In addition, woodpeckers expose layers

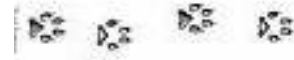
under the tree bark which makes it easier for other birds to find food.

So you may want to think twice before removing dead or decaying trees from your property. If you leave them, the woodpeckers will come...and many other creatures will follow!

Excerpted from an article in the Fall 2009, Number 49, issue of Bird Watch Canada by Pete Davidson, Mark Drever, Kathy Martin, Andrea Norris, and Karen Wiebe

Local Wildlife

There have been lots of fox and rabbit tracks in the snow this year. You can tell a fox track because the footprints appear a straight line rather than beside each other.



Rabbits, with their big back feet and smaller front paws, also make a very distinctive track.



If you have any sightings to report - or photos of Bay Lake's critters, we'd love to hear from you. You can reach us in a number of ways:

- Email us at mail@baylakeontario.com
- Write to us at BLPOA, c/o Membership Coordinator, 101 Maple Drive, Emsdale ON P0A 1J0
- Call a member of the Executive...or stop us on the road...or drop by!

