

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.com



CORN ROAST

Date: Saturday, September 27th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Boat Ramp

(The rain date is Sunday the 28th at noon.)

We hope you'll join us again at this year's Corn Roast. After filling up on delicious corn, sausages and chilli, you can sit around the fire and socialize. If it's a clear night, we can also enjoy the view in the sky at the Boat Ramp - a great spot for star gazing.

Bring: Chairs;
Your own mug;
An appetite;
Cash - for a donation toward the cost of the event, 50/50 tickets, a Bay Lake shirt or hat, and/or your membership fees.

We'll supply the food, beverages, bonfire and the Port-a-Potty!

CLEAR LAKE / BAY LAKE HALL

Head on out to their latest Spaghetti Dinner:

Date Saturday, October 11th

Time 5:00 - 7:00

Cost \$8.00 for Adults; \$6.00 for Youth,
Free for those under 6

SIGN BOARD DIRECTORY

The Directory Listing on the Sign Board will be **updated at the end of September**, and only those who are paid members for **2008/2009** will have their name and lot number listed. If you don't want your name removed and haven't yet paid, send us a cheque, or give your money to a member of the Executive, or go online and click the Pay Now button on our website to pay by credit card. If at any time you have paid and do not see your name, please contact Cheryl or Doug (773 Bay Lake Road, 636-0222) or send an email to mail@baylakeontario.com.



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WHAT WENT ON AT THE AGM

What went on at the AGM? Lots! Those of you who were not there missed a very interesting and informative presentation from Paul Wiancko, President of the Six Mile Lake Association. Paul discussed their efforts to involve property owners in the ongoing struggle with an ever-increasing goose population, and their activities in testing, and trying to maintain a high level of, water quality.

Following this presentation, those in attendance passed a motion to establish an Environment Fund so that donations can be made to those efforts. We will continue to accept donations to the Fish Fund, and to devote that money to fish-related efforts.

Those who did attend the AGM were so inspired by the guest speaker, and by the stated desire of the Executive to become more active in Environment and water quality issues, that not only did they pass the original motion to increase membership fees by \$10.00 for the 2009/2010 year, but they then made and passed a motion for an additional increase, raising membership fees to \$40.00 a year with \$10.00 of that going directly to the Environment Fund.

There was much discussion about this subsequent motion, which amounts to a doubling of the membership fees – and there was even a motion to rescind the motion for the additional increase – but in the end the majority of those in attendance felt strongly enough about the issue that the additional membership increase stood.

The meeting continued, where the work of the Executive during last year was reviewed, and the new Executive was elected with 4 new people (3 of them brand new to the lake!) volunteering to join (see page 3 for a listing of the new Executive members).

A motion from the floor also directed the Executive to try to recoup some of the cost of putting on events by either charging people or by accepting donations.

The door prizes included 4 bottles of Maple Syrup that were won by Peter and Linda Szeli, Walter Young, Glen and Sherry Vey, and Gary and Helene Jarvis, and a portable BBQ which was won by Don MacMillan.

Mayor Bill Core was on hand following the meeting to provide Township information and to answer questions.

A copy of the AGM Minutes can be found on the website.

PROPOSED NEW AGM DATE

Unfortunately there were lots of you who were not at the AGM. Out of a member base of 110 properties, only 50 people attended the meeting. This low turnout, and feedback from members, has led the Executive to propose a change of date for the AGM. Please respond to the question posed on the attached voting form, either by completing the form and mailing it back to us or by voting online at www.baylakeontario.com.

NATURE UPDATE

It appears something happened early this year that removed one of our **loons** and damaged the beak of the other. This means that we did not have nesting loons this year. However, late in August we either got a new pair, or the loon with the broken beak got a mate. Hopefully they will return and nest next year.

There were **bear** sightings all summer, with reports of a large adult and a smaller adolescent. We were not successful in trapping them and this does not bode well for next year. The adolescent bear was not afraid of humans and if he returns as an adult he will be much more dangerous. Be careful!

YOUR 2008/2009 EXECUTIVE

President 773 Bay Lake Road	Cheryl Stamper 636-0222
1st Vice President 501 N. Bay Lake Road	Bill Paterson 636-0568
2nd Vice President 58 Frank Lane	Sherry Vey 636-1414
Treasurer 54 Hillcrest Lane	Curtiss MacDonald 636-5930
Secretary 605 North Bay Lake Rd	Lee Davidson 636-9771
Co-Secretary 501 N. Bay Lake Road	Janice Paterson 636-0568
Environment Activities via Subcommittee	
Newsletter	Cheryl Stamper
Website 773 Bay Lake Road	Doug Banwell 636-0222
Members at Large 319 N. Bay Lake Road	Lori Heaton 905-516-5775
62 Frank Lane	Steve Morris 416-543-3833 (cell)
1467 Bay Lake Road	Brent Reuter 636-9787
58 Frank Lane	Glen Vey 636-1414
135 N. Bay Lake Road	Leanne/Steven Witt 705-476-5542
Lake Steward 1451 Bay Lake Road	Jack Podwinski 636-7365

FOND FAREWELLS

We are sad to report the loss early this spring of Dan Danyer, husband to Elaine (nee Domski, long-time Bay Lake property owners), while the family was on vacation in Cuba. Dan is sadly missed by his family, friends and neighbours.

PHOTO CONTEST

Although not many people sent in photos this year, those that were received were really great. All submissions will be posted on our website for your enjoyment. The winners are listed below and will be published in our new 2009 Bay Lake Calendar (see article below).

Cottage Critters	Ljubica Janic -young bear that was plaguing North Bay Lake Road
Kids	Betty Aylesworth - young boy feeding chippy
Pets	No submissions
Views around Bay Lake	Betty Aylesworth - fabulous sunset through the pines

Start thinking about next year - we will be looking for a single submission of your best photo in any or each category. We know there are great pictures out there - so please share them with us. Don't be shy!

NEW! - 2009 BAY LAKE CALENDAR

Our first publication of the Bay Lake Calendar will feature this year's best photos from "Views Around the Lake" and "Cottage Critters". This 11x14 full-colour, cerlox-bound calendar will make a great Christmas gift, and is sure to be a cottage favourite - for **only \$22.50!** This great price includes the cost of shipping by mail.

Here's how you can **order your calendar**:

- Complete the attached form and mail it back to us with your cheque;
- Click the Calendar **Buy Now** button on the website and pay with your credit card;
- Contact Janice Paterson at 636-0568, 501 North Bay Lake Road, and place your order.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

We hope to have a budget for the newly-established Environment Fund for the next newsletter. This budget will let you know what we will be doing with the funds ear-marked for the Environment as well as what funds will be needed to accomplish our goals.

Benthic Testing: Several of the Executive showed up at the Boat Ramp to meet with Maggie Braun from the District of Muskoka and learn about and conduct Benthic Testing.

Benthic testing tells us the condition of the water in our lake by looking at the minute critters that live in the bottom sand and muck - really weird bugs that you can only see with a magnifying glass. The quantity and variety found in a water sample tell us many things about water quality.

Our data was collected from 3 samples at a single site (the boat ramp) and then sent to Dorset, where it was analyzed and recorded and compared against the data from other lakes in the Muskoka watershed. Our results were basically in the line of "average" for the watershed. While we were hoping that our water quality would score better than average, especially considering that our lake is near the top of the watershed, it must be noted that our results are based on 3 samples from only 1 site versus Muskoka's 73 samples from 44 sites.

What we need to do is continue the process by sampling again next year at the same site at the boat ramp and expand to do our own first samples of other sites around our lake. Over time we will build records to show our lake status and if we have improved or worsened.

E-coli Testing: Testing and the equipment necessary to do it properly will be somewhat expensive. We are researching costs now with other Lake Associations.

Lake Plan: Your Executive will also be working on establishing a "Lake Plan". Many lakes in Muskoka have such a Plan and when it is done properly it can be accepted by the Township as part of the Official Plan. This makes it legal. We will be asking for your help by way of questionnaires and/or meetings. We have an opportunity at this time to determine the future of Bay Lake for us and those who follow us. Please help us by following this process in the newsletter and on line and taking part by volunteering to help.

ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you concerned about the environment and keeping Bay Lake healthy? Do you have some time and/or ideas to share? We are forming our Environment Committee and need people who are willing to serving on the committee and/or assist with the work. If you are interested, contact Bill Paterson at 636-0568, willyp@xplornet.com, 501 North Bay Lake Road.

FUN DAY

There were around 100 people in attendance this year - a great turnout, especially considering the event had to be delayed until the Sunday due to rain. It was worth the wait, though, as the weather finally cooperated and the event went off without a hitch.

Everyone enjoyed the water balloon tosses and eating 16 dozen hot dogs, and the kids particularly enjoyed their games this year, thanks to the efforts of our Recreational Directors, James Allen and Sarah Krick. These two did a marvellous job of running the games and the face-painting station.

Thanks to everyone who came out, to those who volunteered to help put the event on, and to James and Sarah.