

Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

www.baylakeontario.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well here we are in the early days of 2011 and on behalf of your Executive I would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Although winter tends to be a relatively quiet time for the Executive, we are continuing to meet and plan our activities for summer 2011.

This year is somewhat special, as your Association enters its 30th consecutive year of existence. This is quite an accomplishment for any organization, let alone an organization of volunteers, and we would like to acknowledge this milestone. To help with our planning I invite you to contact us with any comments or suggestions that you might have. If you have email, you can reach us at president@baylakeontario.ca.

Also, I am aware that a number of you were founding members of the Association and I would appreciate hearing from you in particular. Perhaps you have some stories or photographs from those early days that you can share with us. We would be pleased to incorporate them in our upcoming newsletters, website, or social events acknowledging our 30th Anniversary.

I look forward to hearing from you. *Glen Vey*

MEMBERSHIP

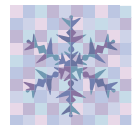
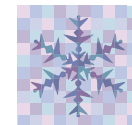
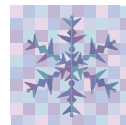
The signboard was updated in November, 2010, with the names of paid-up members for the current year - July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

A table will be set up at all upcoming events to facilitate payment of memberships.

Cheques (\$40) payable to BLPOA can also be forwarded to **our new address:**

Box 120, Novar, ON P0A 1R0

or payment can be made on line via our website www.baylakeontario.ca



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FOR NATURE NUTS

New Visitors to Watch for on Snowy Days

Submitted by Janice Paterson

Winter snows can make it easier to spot our elusive and nocturnal visitors. If you would like to learn to identify which critter has passed by, you can pick up a guide to identifying tracks. *Animal Tracks of Ontario*, a field guide published by Lone Pine, is a good choice.

I am always surprised when I look out onto the lake after a snowy night and see just how much “traffic” passed while we slept. The tracks of **deer** crossing to the islands crisscross the delicate path of a fox. Bounding tracks near shore identify the **Pine Marten** that was later spotted at the Lambert’s fish pond. Near the docks, there is evidence the **Mink** has been searching for mice and moles. And of course, the **squirrels** have been everywhere.

Sometimes, we have been lucky to spot the slide marks left in the snow by the **River Otters** that live over the hill as they take the quick route down the hill under the Hydro cut. We once watched a slow and ponderous **Porcupine** lay down snowshoe-like tracks as it crossed deep snow near the roadside on his route to the next big tree buffet. We can all easily spot deer and moose tracks and moose if we are lucky enough to come across them.

Snow tracks can tell you a story if you take the time to interpret them. The imprint of the wings of a large bird and a small disturbance in the snow between the wing prints tell of a successful owl hunt. If you look closely you will find lots of imprints of smaller creatures like mice as they venture out on top of the snow. However, mostly these rodents tunnel under the snow and we find their pathways in our gardens and lawns when the snow melts.

Early in December, three property owners on North Bay Lake Road confirmed spotting **wolf tracks** in the snow. This appeared to be a single wolf that had wandered around one property and then used the road to head back to the woods at the head of the lake. There are approximately 38 wolf packs in Algonquin Park. During the winter, it is not uncommon for packs to stray outside of park boundaries in search of food. When food is scarce, a pack may force an adolescent wolf from the pack to fend for itself.

Snow brings new **birds** our way as well. In December, Fred Stamper spotted a **Snowy Owl** in a tree on Bay Lake Road. This beautiful, mostly white, owl is easy to spot during the daytime because it is a diurnal bird from the Arctic. Its natural environment requires it to hunt during the day because of the long daylight hours in the Arctic, so it is active when we are out and about. Since it needs open fields to hunt, this Snowy Owl would have been resting on his way through our forested area (although two birds were reportedly spotted overwintering at the industrial park in Bracebridge last year).

Other species of birds have arrived from further north as well. Heavy snows to the north of us force many birds to travel further south to find food. Such birds include other owls such as the Great Grey and the Barred Owl, Pine Grosbeaks and the Common Redpoll to name only a few.

Now that the bears have finally gone to bed (our last bear visit was in mid-November) it is safe to put out our feeders to enjoy watching our new and our resident feathered friends.

SKY GAZING

Lunar Eclipse Watching

Did you see it? Or did you stay snug in your bed?

On December 21, the Winter solstice was visible in the clear skies over Bay Lake from 1:15 a.m. to approximately 5:45 a.m. I dragged my poor husband out into the cold night (-17° Celcius) to see this amazing sight -the first full lunar eclipse on the winter solstice to occur in 372 years.

The full lunar eclipse is called a Blood Moon because once the earth's shadow completely covers the moon's surface, the moon becomes an orange colour rather than the pearly white we are used to seeing. We had an opportunity here on Bay Lake to see this event better than most. Once the sun's rays were blocked out, the northern sky was able to shine through and the Blood Moon was displayed on a background of the billion stars belonging to the Milky Way. Quite a sight and one that my camera failed to capture.

The photo below was taken with a 300 mm zoom lens as the shadow was just beginning to pass to the lower right. The brightness of the sun is beginning to shine on the upper left edge.



What's in Winter's Night Sky?

The constellation of Orion is a favorite target for observers in winter. It can be seen with the naked eye, with binoculars or with a telescope.

Orion is easy to pick out because of the three stars that align to make up its belt. It also has two very big stars. The star in the lower right of the constellation is a supergiant blue star named Rigel and is the brightest in this constellation. The star on the upper left shoulder is Betelgeuse, which is a red star so big that if you put it where the sun is in our solar system, the outer edge of the star would touch Jupiter's orbit. Scientists think that Betelgeuse is in the process of going supernova.



The best conjunction of planets in the night sky in 2011 will occur on March 15th, when Mercury and Jupiter will align.

Did you know that a full moon in March used to be called a Worm Moon? This was because in warmer climates than Bay Lake, it denotes the return of robins and spring.

Submitted by Janice Paterson

WINTER UPDATE

Bay Lake Motorists Should Get "Winter Prepared"

Submitted by Paul Turner

The recent south-western snowstorm of December, 2010, caught many by surprise. It was shocking to learn that over 300 motorists in the Sarnia area were stuck in their vehicles for more than 24 hours, and that one man died of exposure just 50 meters from his car.

This prompted me to research winter safety tips. One suggestion is to stay in your car if you are involved in an accident or stuck in a storm. Another is to keep emergency supplies in your car. I'm sure there's plenty I have forgotten, but here is a list of the things our family (2 adults, 2 kids, 1 dog) now has in each vehicle:

Flashlight (with extra batteries)	1 extra old winter coat
Emergency road flashers	2 Wool blankets
Tool kit	8 pairs of extra mitts
Duct tape	4 Toques
2 exacto knives	4 scarves
Spare medication	Empty jar (for melting snow)
First aid kit	4 1-litre bottles of water
Pens and notepaper	10 granola bars
Garbage bags	Large bottle of roasted peanuts
2 rolls toilet paper	Dog food
Matches / lighters	\$25.00 in cash
10 candles	
Tea lights	
12 chemical heat hand-warmers	

The O.P.P. confirmed that a de-activated cell phone will still connect to 9-1-1, provided it is adequately charged and is getting signal.

Happy and safe winter cottaging and driving.

EVENTS UPDATE

It's our Anniversary!

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Bay Lake Property Owners Association. In recognition of this milestone we would like to celebrate and we are looking for ideas on how we can appropriately commemorate this occasion. Please forward your comments / suggestions to president@baylakeontario.ca.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour 2011 will take place on **March 26th** between **8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.** Earth Hour is a global event whereby households and businesses are asked to 'turn-off' their non-essential lights and electrical appliances for one hour to raise awareness of the need to take action on climate change.

Bay Lakers have been participating in this important cause for the last few years and we hope that all of you will take part again this year.

Pitch-In Day

Pitch-In Day will be **Saturday, April 16th**, starting **9:00 a.m.** and ending by noon. As usual, the meeting place for this event will be the **Boat Ramp**. Bill Paterson, our coordinator, has scheduled sunshine and no bugs for this date. What more can we ask for...yeah Bill!

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 22nd
9:00 a.m. - noon
Clear Lake / Bay Lake Hall

This is our largest event of the year, requiring considerable planning and preparation. While we appreciate the many volunteers that assist year after year we also, require and welcome new volunteers to ensure the ongoing success of this event. If you would like to be a volunteer for this or any other event please email us at president@baylakeontario.ca.