

# Bay Lake Property Owners Association Newsletter

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Summer is in full swing and since our last newsletter we have successfully held our Pancake Breakfast and Fun Day. The upcoming Annual General Meeting will mark the end of another busy year.

The **AGM** will be held at the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall on **Sunday August 7th at 9:00 a.m.** Our **guest speaker**, Terri Rodrigues from the Fern Glen Nursery, will speak on the topic of "shoreline /cottage native plants and shrubs". She will also have plants for sale and will be available to answer your questions following the meeting.

We will be unveiling our **new Bay Lake Logo** and Mission Statement as well as extending an invitation to Mayor John Dunn to attend and represent the Township.

Following the meeting we will **celebrate the Association's 30th Anniversary** with an Open House and social gathering from **noon until 2:00 p.m.** We invite you to attend and to also reach out to former association members and residents of the lake and extend an invitation for them to join us. We are looking forward to sharing memories so please bring any old photos and memorabilia that you would like to share. Light refreshments and sandwiches will be served.

I would like to thank our Executive Members for their support over the past year and I am pleased that all have agreed to serve on the Executive next year. I also wish to thank all of our other volunteers for their support, including our Executive Support Group of Doug Banwell as Webmaster, Jack Podwinski as Lake Steward and Cheryl Stamper as Newsletter Editor. We continue to seek new members and volunteers and ask you to consider participating. If you are interested, feel free to speak to any Executive member.

Your presence and participation at all our events is important to us and we encourage you to attend, have a voice and enjoy!

On a safety note, there seems to be an increase in careless boating activity on the lake. Please read the Boating Safety article in this issue.

On behalf of the Executive we wish you and your family a safe and fun filled summer on Bay Lake.

*Glen Vey*

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## STAR GAZING

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The **Persied Meteor Showers** will peak this summer in the early morning hours of **August 12-13, 2011**. Unfortunately, this year there will be a full moon during the shower's actual peak, obscuring all but the brightest meteors. But you will see Perseids in the weeks leading up to the peak if we have dark skies. Perseids begin to appear in the night sky during the first week of August before the moon starts to spoil our viewing. During this week the moon will be setting between 9.30 and midnight, giving us an opportunity to observe if we stay up late.

The meteors get their name from the constellation Perseus the Hero, which is the area of the sky in which they originate. Don't worry if you don't know where this is as the meteors appear in all parts of the sky. Most people look forward to the Perseids each summer because of the opportunity to see 50 or more meteors per hour at peak. The number of meteors will increase between midnight and the wee hours before dawn. They are often bright and sometimes leave a glowing trail in the sky after they pass.

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## MEMBERSHIP

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We are now entering the 31st year of this Association and we **thank you for your ongoing support**. You can **pay your annual membership fees** at any time throughout the year at one of our events, via the website, by mail or through a member of the Executive. You can also pay at the upcoming AGM.

We try to make good use of every membership dollar we receive. Many of you will have seen the article in the May 20th issue of *The Muskokan* regarding our Benthic Testing efforts. A dedicated portion of your annual \$40.00 membership supports these and other environmental activities.

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## OUR NEW LOGO

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The votes are in and a new logo has been selected by our membership...but you have to come to our AGM on August 7th if you want to see the unveiling!

We will also be presenting the new **BLPOA Mission Statement** at the AGM.

**Laminated maps of Bay Lake** will also be available at our AGM will be that you can buy for **\$20.00** each.

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## BOATING SAFETY

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Once again it is wonderful to see so many people out on the water enjoying the pleasures of beautiful Bay Lake. Don't forget to have your **Pleasure Craft Operator Card** with you when out on the lake and make sure your watercraft has all the necessary safety equipment for its size and type...in good working order. The law requires boats to be equipped with an approved PFD or **lifejacket** of an appropriate size **for each person** on board. When towing skiers or tubers, a **spotter** is required and there must be **space on board for the driver, spotter and anyone being towed**. This applies to Personal Watercraft as well as boats. A good resource to check for safety equipment requirements is the "*Safe Boating Guide*", a free publication from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. And remember, the OPP do visit our lake from time to time.

Boaters are asked to **respect speed limits** and **be careful of your wake** near the shore. Large wake affects wildlife habitat, the shoreline and personal property. Also, please be very careful when filling your **gas tank**. Portable tanks should be **filled away from the lake**.

Always be on the **lookout for swimmers!** It is a boater's responsibility to be aware of anything in the water. If new to the lake, please take time to become familiar with some of our shallower rocks. An enjoyable way to do this is

by travelling around the lake by canoe, kayak or paddleboat. If you have a **swim raft** or other float out in the lake, please mark it with **reflectors** for boating safety.

Let's make this one of the safest summers ever and please respect everyone's right to have fun on the water.

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## ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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Rather than have a formal Environment Committee, Bill Paterson has agreed to co-ordinate environmental activities and try to arrange the participation of members of the association who are interested in specific events or projects. Judy Dunn has been, and will continue to be, incredibly helpful with water testing and other projects. Judy and John Dunn continue to do the Lake Partners program sampling and Sechi disc testing for water clarity and Phosphorous.

The results of this year's first round of testing for E-coli were slightly elevated because of several days of extremely heavy rains preceding our sampling day. Our second round had all results back to normal. We also did one round of testing for Calcium. There are severely declining levels of Calcium in some Muskoka lakes which could lead to serious problems for shell and bone growth in aquatic creatures. Our testing showed varying levels around the lake but the average closely matched information from the District.

We did our annual session of Benthic Testing with the generous help of the District of Muskoka and the Muskoka Watershed Council. A coordinator from the District, Delaina Moore, did the water sampling and identification with help from Judy Dunn (who recently graduated from a benthic certification program) while a large group of volunteers picked through the samples. Using eye droppers for suction and tweezers they managed to find over 300 tiny critters that will tell us a lot about the health of our lake. We

hope to have results for the AGM. Participation is a great way help while learning about the environment of Bay Lake. We will be looking for volunteers again next year.

Unfortunately, our Pitch In Day efforts were largely undone after the Federal Government dropped census forms at the end of every drive on the lake. Most of these turned into mush after the first rain.

Judy, Bill and Janice attended the Muskoka Watershed Council's Environmental Lecture series event. One of the interesting topics was how property owners with more than 25 acres of bush can get tax relief by maintaining them as a controlled woodland. Anyone who wishes information can contact Bill and he can provide further contacts that will help you.

We are still looking for woodworkers interested in building "Wood Duck" boxes. There is a sample and the Association will pay for the wood. We would like to have a few of these ready and mounted before the ice goes out next spring. These boxes house the very colourful Wood Ducks as well as Mergansers. The old boxes around the lake are decaying and we have noticed the lack of Mergansers this year probably from lack of nesting boxes.

The Loons declined our platform again this year. We will perservere. Hopefully they can find another suitable site. No one has reported seeing loon chicks this year

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## BEARS

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There have been several reports of bear sightings on Bay Lake and we need to be careful not to attract them to our property by leaving food, seed or garbage outside. Bears that have been fed can become accustomed to humans and this can lead to potentially dangerous situations for both humans and bears (see our spring newsletter for more information on how to prevent a bear visit and how to behave if you do encounter a bear).

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## ASSOCIATION EVENTS

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**Pancake Breakfast** We want to thank all who came out and enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast and the dedicated volunteers who support it year after year (you know who you are!). We appreciate the great work you do. It was nice to see some new faces who we hope will be back to do a fantastic job again next year.

Thanks to Susan Freidman who once again provided the fresh fruit. Thank you to the Wilkins for supplying the maple syrup door prize that Susan Coates was happy to win.

There were many great items and bargains to be found on the Silent Auction tables, which raised almost \$1,000.00. We extend a huge thank you to the businesses and Bay Lake individuals who donated items. It was wonderful to have new businesses and individuals contact us so that they could donate. That's support!

Congratulations to Curtiss MacDonald for winning \$158.00 in the 50-50 draw, and thanks for donating \$50.00 back to the Association.

**Fun Day** Our venue changed to the Winning Techniques Camp property, allowing the kids to run in the grass and enjoy the games we provided and the Camp's fun equipment (rock climbing was very popular)! A special thanks to Winning Techniques for providing us with several student volunteers to help with the games and keep the kids entertained.

Thanks to Janice Paterson who literally changed the faces of so many children. Her face painting was by far the main attraction of the day and she did an amazing job.

The lucky winner of \$100.00 from the 50-50 draw was a member of the Monchamp family.

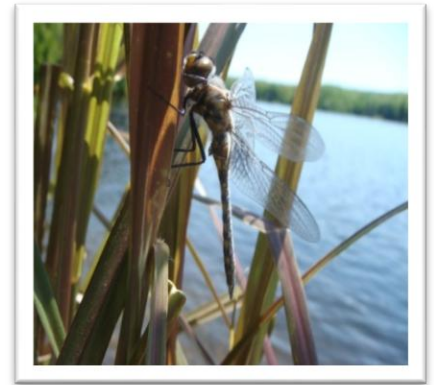
**Corn Roast** We hope to see you out at the Corn Roast this year at the **Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall** on **Saturday, September 3rd** at **6:00 p.m.**

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## FOR NATURE NUTS

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The Dragonfly, an amazing flyer, comes in a variety of colours and sizes. It has a voracious appetite for black flies, mosquitoes and other insects, and is one of the most ancient of species of insect still living on the earth today.



They lay their eggs on the water or in plant material at the water line. The Dragonfly larva or Nymph breathes using gills which help it move rapidly through the water by expelling bursts of water much like a jet ski. The Nymph feeds on the larvae of smaller insects, fish-eggs, fry and tadpoles. As the Nymph grows it sheds its outer casing and replaces it with a larger one. It will shed its casing 8 to 15 times before it reaches its final growth stage. The Nymph may live several years in the lake in larval stage until hormone levels and water temperature trigger the cycle that will transform it into an aerial flier.

When the Dragonfly Nymph emerges from the water it begins the process that will result in a true Dragonfly, starting with a split in the larval case at the back of the neck. It takes a lot of work and time to slowly pull itself free of the casing. This is when the dragonfly is most vulnerable to predators. It needs to rest to recover and dry out delicate wings before it can fly away to look for food. Dragonflies hunt away from the water. When they return to the water to mate, the male grasps the female behind the head with the appendages at the end of his abdomen and both partners curl into a flying wheel shape.

Some species live only 4-6 weeks but the Green Darner (the one we see in late September) migrates south as the weather chills.