



Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2015! Another year dawns here in the Great White North where we are into the depths of winter with minus 20 to minus 30C temperatures at night. However, these temperatures are balanced by the pure white snowscape, incredible starry skies and ultimate silence. Occasionally, the silence is broken by the buzz of snowmobiles on the lake or the chatter of red squirrels and birds vying for the sunflower seeds in the feeder by our window. Even at night the feeder's location does not deter a visit from a determined flying squirrel.

Just like the changing seasons, nothing ever stays the same...so come explore the winter wonderland of Bay Lake. On the Family Day Holiday Weekend, February 14-16, we are planning a fun outdoor event (see Winter Family Fun Day & Fishing Derby on page 3) and we hope you will join us on the lake. No fish were caught at last year's event, so maybe this is going to be the year when someone catches a big one.

Some of you will have received notification from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding amendments to the list of lakes designated for Lake Trout Management. At this time we have not received any further feedback from the Ministry in this regard but will keep the membership informed of upcoming changes

to fishing seasons and dates, etc. I wish to thank those property owners who gave feedback to the MNRF's proposal for the changes to our fishing status. *Best, Sarah Adams*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, **February 14** - 9 am - 4 pm
Saturday, **April 18** - 9 am
Sunday, **May 17** - 9 am - noon
Saturday, **June 27** - noon - 2 pm
Sunday, **August 9** - 9 am

Winter Fun & Ice Fishing Derby
Pitch-in Day
Pancake Breakfast
Annual Fun Day
Annual General Meeting



www.baylakeontario.ca

"To promote and maintain a healthy lake environment and to encourage the responsible use of Bay Lake for the enjoyment and benefit of our community today and for the future."

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PITCH-IN DAY

Saturday, April 18th - 9 am at the Boat Ramp

Over the winter months, underneath all that snow, various pieces of trash have accumulated. We gather at the Boat Launch at 9:00 am for our assignments and then walk around a designated section of roadway to pick up that trash. Work gloves and pick-up sticks are provided. It's a worthwhile way to spend a Saturday morning at Bay Lake just when there is a promise of Spring in the air.

EARTH HOUR AND EARTH DAY

Earth Hour falls on Saturday, **March 28th** this year and we encourage you to acknowledge the event by turning off your lights between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Light the fire and the candles and enjoy the atmosphere. You can even go so far as to turn off the radio and TV and computers and listen to nature or to those around you.

Earth Day will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, **April 22nd**. On this day, people around the world perform acts of service to the earth to help the environment. Some plant trees, while others hold programs for reducing, reusing and recycling. The first Earth Day was founded in 1970 to promote ecology and to encourage an awareness of the problems of air, water and soil pollution.

WATER MONITORING GRANT

In November we applied for the above grant from the Township of Perry. Great news! The BLPOA received the maximum funding of \$1,000. Thanks to the Township and to David Adams for putting together the extensive application requirements.

This boost to our coffers will enable us to expand our Water Testing Program to give us an early warning of problematic water quality around the lake.

BAY LAKE WEBSITE

Our website was attacked by a virus recently and had to be closed down. Good news – it's back up and running! We thank our IT whiz, Doug Banwell, for reinstating our postings.

FOND FAREWELLS

Harold Keeton of North Bay Lake Road passed away on November 18, 2014 at Hospice Muskoka at the age of 96. Harold was a founding member of the Bay Lake Property Owners Association and a well-known figure at Bay Lake. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family and friends. A memorial will be held in the spring.

WINTER PARKING BY-LAW

The Township of Perry by-law #2004 states:

- *No person park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow. Such vehicles will be tagged and towed at the owner's expense.*
- *No person deposit snow or ice on a roadway, or push snow on or across roadways.*

Anyone who contravenes this provision is guilty of an offense and liable, upon conviction, to a fine. Please pass this information on to visitors and renters.

SNOW ACCUMULATION

We've had a lot of snow this year, making it difficult for people to see oncoming vehicles when coming out of their driveways. Even though the Township has cut down the excess, the banks are still very high at many driveway entrances. Please exercise extreme caution when approaching driveways and be aware that a car may suddenly pop out in front of you. This should also be noted by snowmobile drivers using the roads.

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY & FISHING DERBY

When is it?

Saturday, February 14, 2015
9am until 4pm
(Lunch from 12 noon until 2pm...chili, hot dogs, beverages)

Where is it?

On the Ice at Sunset Bay
(By road: Bay Lake Road at Maple Drive
By the lake: straight out from the Boat Ramp)

What should I bring?

\$5.00 if you want to enter the Fishing Derby and get the chance to win a prize!
(proceeds go to our Fish Fund)

Winter sports equipment or any games that can be played outside

Skates in case there is good ice available

This is the Family Day Holiday Weekend, so no fishing license is needed!

If parking is required, leave your vehicle at the Boat Ramp, or at 973 Bay Lake Road or at 101 Maple Drive.

Trucks and Automobiles ARE NOT permitted on the lake!

EMSDALE LIBRARY WINTER HOURS

The Township of Perry has adjusted the Library hours from November through April.

Sunday and Monday	closed
Tuesday	2 pm – 8 pm
Wednesday	10 am – 8 pm
Thursday	2 pm – 8 pm
Friday	1 pm – 4 pm
Saturday	10 am – 1 pm

WINTER HOURS AT THE DUMP

New, reduced, winter hours for the Transfer Station & Recycling Centre will be in effect from the Tuesday after Thanksgiving until April 30th.

Monday	12 noon – 4 pm
Tuesday	12 noon – 4 pm
Closed on Wednesday and Thursday	
Friday	11 am – 4 pm
Saturday	11 am – 4 pm
Sunday	10 am – 4 pm

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- Install a set of 4 identical winter tires to improve performance on cold slick roads
- Have your battery tested. A weak battery will not last the winter.
- Keep an Emergency kit in your car
- Ensure your gas tank is at least half-full. Condensation can build up in extreme temperatures in a near-empty gas tank and the fuel line can freeze.
- Drive with extra care. To reduce the likelihood of skidding, accelerate gradually and slow down well in advance of turns and avoid sudden stops.
- If you hit an icy patch and skid, don't panic. Take your foot off the brake or accelerator, and look and steer in the direction you want to go.

More winter driving tips can be found at <http://www.caasco.com/Auto/Driving-Safely/~media/Files/pdf/Winter-Driving-Tips.ashx>.

Source: Canadian Automobile Association



BLACK BEARS - A TYPICAL YEAR

January

The full moon in January is sometimes called the 'bear moon'. Black bear cubs are generally born in January. The mother bear licks them clean, keeps them warm and moves into positions to make it easier for them to nurse.

February

All bears continue to hibernate. Newborn cubs continue to grow as mothers care for them.

March

Hibernation continues. The testosterone levels of adult male black bears begin to rise.

April

The snow melts and bears leave their dens. Food is very scarce. Adult males begin to roam. Most other bears remain sluggish, eating mainly aspen catkins and willow catkins (pussy willows). All bears lose weight at this time of year.



May

Green plants begin to grow and trees begin to sprout leaves. The bears' lethargy ends. They begin to eat sprouting grass, emerging herbs and young aspen leaves. Cubs taste what their mother eats, but swallow very little of it. They still rely on their mother's milk. Mother bears nursing young cubs continue to lose weight. Other bears slowly begin to gain weight.

June

Green plants mature and toughen, making most of them inedible for the bears. Ant pupae become abundant and bears add them to their diet. Mating season begins and males roam widely to find females without cubs. Cubs begin eating solid food, especially ant pupae from logs their mother opens for them.

July

Cherries, blueberries, serviceberries, wild sarsaparilla berries and raspberries ripen and become major foods for the bears. All bears gain weight rapidly if these berry crops are plentiful.

August

Viburnum berries, dogwood berries, wild plums, hawthorn berries, mountain-ash berries, and hazelnuts -- a favorite of black bears -- ripen. All bears continue to gain weight.

September

Berries and hazelnuts become scarce. Where acorns are abundant, bears feed and fatten on them. Cubs stop nursing. Bears begin to become lethargic and some enter dens to begin hibernation.

October

Most bears enter their dens and begin a light hibernation. Cubs born last winter will share their mother's den.

November

Hibernation deepens. A hibernating bear's heart rate slows to as low as 8 beats per minute. Breathing becomes as slow as one breath every 45 seconds. Eggs fertilized in the late spring or early summer implant in the uterus and begin to develop.

December

Hibernation continues. Cubs will sleep through their first birthday (in January) without celebrating. No party hats or cake for these little ones!



Source: North American Bear Centre