



# Fall 2014

## NEW S L E T T E R



[www.baylakeontario.ca](http://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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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Bay Lake property owners! Already we are ending another season, leaving just two more months until the end of the year. I don't think that I'm the only one who feels the years going by faster as I age.

As I am now into my second year as our Association's president, I'd like to thank the many people responsible for keeping us afloat (no mean task) over the past year.

Bill Paterson and John & Judy Dunn are to be lauded for their on-going dedication to keeping tabs on our water quality. This past year, a large portion of our financial resources was spent on water testing. When you read the account of the problems encountered by our neighbours on Clear Lake (see page 4), you will surely give additional thanks to the aforementioned trio. I personally extend a big "Thank You" to Bill, Judy and John.

I want to thank Cheryl Stamper for her efforts in pulling together our Newsletter. We couldn't do it without her!

I also want to extend thanks to Doug Banwell for his continued support of our website.

Thanks also to the members of last year's Executive who have all returned to serve your community for 2014-2015, with just one exception - Paul Turner and his family are off on a world tour and won't return until next summer. Some of us have been able to follow their travels via their blog and have been enjoying their adventures.

New blood is always welcome, so I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to join us to bolster our committee. Our meetings are a good mix of work and social interaction and we are looking to meet only once or twice over the winter months. Let me know. Remember to enjoy Bay Lake whatever the season.

*'Best, Sarah Adams*

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## 2014-2015 EXECUTIVE

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President	Sarah Adams
Past President	Glen Vey
Vice President	Steve Morris
Secretary	Katherine Silver
Website	Gary Silver
Treasurer	David Adams
Lake Steward	Bob Nimigeon
Membership	Pat Nimigeon
Member at Large	Lee Davidson

### Executive Support:

Environment	Bill Paterson, Judy & John Dunn
Newsletter Editor	Cheryl Stamper
Website Support	Doug Banwell

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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The annual membership dues of \$40.00 per property are now due. Please thoughtfully consider the importance of supporting your Association, whether you are a first-time member or need to renew.

If you have any doubts, I would invite you to read the account of the woes of the Clear Lake property owners. Support, both financially and figuratively, is needed to keep Bay Lake healthy and protect YOUR property values. When I asked the President of Clear Lake if there was anything we could do for them she replied, "Change lakes with us!"

You can pay your membership dues by cheque (mail to Box 120, Novar, P0A 1R0) or by Paypal when you visit the website at [www.baylakeontario.ca](http://www.baylakeontario.ca).

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## TOWNSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

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Congratulations to our newly-elected Mayor, Norm Hofstetter, and to Councillors Jim Cushman, Jeffery Marshall, Margaret-Ann McPhail\* and Les Rowley. The BLPOA looks forward to on-going dialogue with the new Mayor and Councillors.

\*Margaret-Ann McPhail is a Bay Lake resident.

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## HYDRO ONE POWER OUTAGE

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**Important Information:** At around 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 16, we had a powerful surge in the electrical current. This resulted in a lot of damaged or burned-out electrical components and electronic equipment. Many residents had to replace their surge protectors after this event. So, if you arrive at your place and notice similar problems, these may have been caused by the power surge.

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## CORN ROAST

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On Saturday, September 20th the weather did not seem to be co-operating with us for our annual Corn Roast. Then, miraculously at about 4:00 it cleared up and between 85 and 90 folks enjoyed our annual event.

Kathy & Wayne Cook again kindly let us take over their property and welcomed everyone to their home. They supplied the ideal venue, and with their large garage we had no worries about the weather dampening our spirits.

Corn, hot dogs and chili were on the menu and we send special thanks to Wayne Cook and Richard Froud for being our chefs. Pam & Scott Milton came through again with their "Area 519" tender and sweet corn cobs. Everyone commented on how wonderful it tasted. The chili was great too of course and we thank Lee Davidson and Pat Nimigeon for their contributions. Thanks also to all the members who helped make the evening so successful.

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## FIREWOOD MISSING

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Someone is stealing firewood from a residence on Bay Lake Road, even after the owners left a nice note saying "Please don't take our wood!". If you see suspicious people around cottages, and if it seems safe to do so, consider asking questions (like, can I help you?). Let the word get out that we are looking out for each other.

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## AGM REPORT

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The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the BLPOA was held on Sunday, August 10, 2014, with about 35 members were in attendance. The President, Sarah Adams, opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The guest speaker was Katy McGregor, joint owner of Northern Sanitation and Disposal which provides maintenance and care of septic systems. She gave a presentation emphasizing the do's and don'ts of managing our septic tanks and weeping beds. Her reminder for all to "keep off, keep out, and keep clean" certainly provided us with a good mantra. She also gave advice for frequent pumping of holding tanks. You may wish to visit their website (<http://northerndisposal.ca>) for more information regarding the company. Katy was presented with a hand-crafted gift as thanks for her informative presentation.

The Financial Report was presented by David Adams who stated that the Association is in good financial shape. On behalf of Bill Paterson, Sarah Adams gave statistics regarding water testing, while Bob Nimigeon provided Membership figures along with his perception of Bay Lake from the Lake Steward's perspective.

Under Other Business, Sarah extended thanks to the year's Executive. Under New Business, Glen Vey informed the attendees that the Association from the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall was following the terms of their constitution and distributing the funds received from the sale of the Hall. The BLPOA is now in receipt of a cheque for \$2,200.00, and it is believed that additional monies were donated to various local charitable organizations.

Other discussions took place regarding the possibility of using some funds to enhance the boat ramp. In addition, a question was raised regarding the sale of a large parcel of land and

the possibility of severance and development. John Dunn, the Mayor of Perry Township, replied that there was a set process regarding all aspects of zoning and that this process could only be implemented following the sale of the property. It was confirmed that, under the new Zoning Map for Perry Township, all of Bay Lake is zoned "Residential".

The door prize gift basket of environmentally-friendly products was won by Clara and Renso Meyer. The formal meeting was adjourned at 10:40 when Mayor John Dunn fielded a Q & A Session. Thanks to our Mayor for his time in this regard.

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## WATER LEVELS

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We are all painfully aware of the wet summer and fall here at the lake. During a two-week period in September, for example, 13 inches of rain fell. This resulted in a number of uncovered boats sinking.

Please keep in mind that there is an agreement with the Township that they, and they alone, will monitor and maintain the outlet. While you may pass messages to them via the Lake Steward, Bob Nimigeon, or the Association, it is never advisable to trespass on the properties adjacent to the outlet. In fact, it is illegal!

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## AROUND BAY LAKE

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The Fire Warning sign that used to be at the intersection of Bay Lake and Rochester Lake roads is missing. If you know of its whereabouts, please let us know so that it can be re-erected.

There seems to be a lot of litter on the roadside this season. We assume it's from visitors or renters. If you are renting your property, please post a copy of our Do's and Don'ts on your fridge. If you need a new copy of the list for display, please let us know via email to [president@baylakeontario.ca](mailto:president@baylakeontario.ca).

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## BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM ON CLEAR LAKE

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Clear Lake has experienced a bloom of toxic blue-green algae. The North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit issued a News Release regarding Clear Lake on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was posted prominently and advised precautions to be taken immediately. These included:

- Avoid using water from Clear Lake for drinking, cooking and bathing;
- Avoid swimming as toxins should not be on your skin or swallowed;
- Avoid using the water for livestock or pets;
- Avoid eating fish caught in Clear Lake.

The quick facts noted were that the toxins can irritate the skin, and if ingested cause diarrhea and vomiting. At high levels the toxins may cause liver and nervous-system damage.

It is of note that boiling the water or using home water treatment devices will NOT destroy the toxins.

The causes of blue-green algae blooms include:

- Phosphates and anti-bacterial agents entering the lake;
- Removal of the natural native shoreline riparian vegetation, resulting in erosion;
- Wave action from boat wakes washing on-shore;
- Grassy lawns whereby nutrients are allowed to flow unrestricted into the water;
- Usage of fertilizers/pesticides;
- Septic/grey water and/or holding tank seepages.

**This could happen on Bay Lake.** We cannot be complacent. We must be aware and vigilant.

We will continue to test for microcystins (blue-green algae), which Bill Paterson informs us is the most expensive test we carry out.

So...**what can you do** as a Bay Lake resident?

1. Do not use ANY fertilizers or pesticides...ever! (this is NOT a city with a waste-water treatment facility);
2. If you have an older septic system or holding tank, have an inspection and take the recommended action;
3. Reduce your boat wake and be respectful of the distance travelling from shore (wakes are most pronounced when the water level is high as it was this summer);
4. Use phosphate-free soaps, detergents and cleaning agents, and limit your use of anti-bacterial agents (these harmful agents are *not* removed when they go through your septic system, and will eventually enter the lake);
5. Restore your natural shoreline by planting native vegetation;
6. Educate yourself...if you'd like more information, contact Sarah Adams at [president@baylakeontario.ca](mailto:president@baylakeontario.ca) or visit one of the many websites to get more complete data on this subject.

Let us all do our part to keep Bay Lake Beautiful!

It is not surprising that lakes with blue-green algal blooms see a significant drop in real estate values. Three Mile Lake had such a bloom in 2005. The Township of Muskoka Lakes ordered a total septic inspection of all properties. Property owners whose systems did not pass had to replace or repair their systems. This, though expensive, was the obvious choice compared to the possibility of continued toxic algae blooms. Visit the Three Mile Lake website at <http://www.3milelake.ca> for details of their horror story.