



Spring Newsletter

Issue Date: APRIL 1st, 2013

www.baylakeontario.ca

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Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction

When: Victoria Day Weekend
Sunday May 19, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall

As many of you know, the Pancake Breakfast is our major fund raiser of the year. It helps to support in part our 'water testing program' and many other lake services and activities for the year.

It is also an important community event for our residents, friends and family to meet and socialize with their neighbours on the lake, and in the surrounding community.

Please join us and support your Lake Association.

Wanted: Volunteers and Silent Auction Donations

Please contact us at admin@baylakeontario.ca if you would like to volunteer some of your time to assist at the breakfast, or, if you care to donate a suitable new/unused item that can be included on our auction table.



Message from the President

“A late Spring!”



Chipping Sparrow

This time last year I was reporting an “Early Spring”. The snow was gone, the ice was off the lake, and we were enjoying summer like weather. This year we are experiencing the complete opposite, or as many remind me, normal weather for this time of year. Lots of snow on the ground, ice on the lake and cold windy weather.

Well, in spite of the weather, your new Executive has met and, we are busy planning our events and projects, for the coming year. We are a much smaller group than in previous years, and as a result, we will be actively seeking new members to help us manage our responsibilities.

On that note, I am pleased to introduce our newest Executive Member, Bob Nimegon. Bob, and his wife Pat, have been on the lake for the past 9 years. They are looking forward to building their new home and eventually living on the lake full-time. Bob has agreed to accept the role of “Lake Steward”. He will be our primary liaison between our Association and the Town, and the Ministry of Natural Resources on matters pertaining to the lake and its’ Environment. Bob will update association members on matters pertaining to the lake through the Newsletter.

That’s it for now. See you at the lake.

Glen Vey

Why Be A Member?

Your Association works for you by:

- comprehensive water testing (e.g. e-coli, phosphorous, clarity)
- Benthic testing (ensuring our mix of aquatic creatures are beneficial to our lake)
- liaising with MNR, MoE, and Perry Township when relevant issues arise
- promoting our community with annual events
- Communications – Newsletters and website (www.baylakeontario.ca)

Water Testing - Adopt-A-Site Program

Water testing begins again on Bay Lake starting on the May 24th weekend, followed by additional testing on the three long weekend weeks throughout the summer. We take test samples from ten locations on the lake each time we sample.

Testing costs have risen a small amount since last year. The cost of sponsoring a site under our Adopt-A-Site water testing program will be \$44.00 per site for 2013.

Your support of the Adopt-a-Site Water Testing Program is very important to the association. Those interested in adopting a site or renewing their sponsorship of a site should visit the our website at www.baylakeontario.ca or contact the BLPOA executive.

The New Executive

President	Glen Vey
1st Vice President	Steve Morris
2nd Vice President	Lee Davidson
Treasurer	David Adams
Secretary	Gaynor Moore
Environment/Lake Steward	Bob Nimegon
Membership	Lee Davidson
Banking	David Adams
Events	<i>Vacant</i>
Director at Large	Paul Turner

BLPOA Executive Support

Newsletter Editor	Janice Paterson
Webmaster	David Adams
Membership Support	Sarah Adams
Water Testing	Bill Paterson and Judy Dunn

Wanted: Treasurer

As many of you know, Curtiss Mac Donald C.A. has provided our Association with professional accounting services for the past several years. Unfortunately Curtiss and his wife Faye have sold their cottage and will not be joining us this year. Both Curtiss and Faye were regular volunteers and supporters of our events throughout the year and their participation will be greatly missed.

While David Adams has agreed to temporarily take over Treasurer duties (in addition to his other responsibilities), we are hoping to find someone to fill this position on the Executive.

If you have an accounting background and/or bookkeeping experience, we would encourage you to consider volunteering by contacting president@bayake.com



Pitch-in Day

April 20th, 9.00 a.m. at the Boat Ramp

Pitch-In Canada Week started back in 1967 in B.C. by a few concerned citizens who were unhappy with the accumulation of litter and debris on B.C. beaches. They called for volunteers to help clean up the litter and the Pitch-in Day program was born.

Your Association has participated in this event for many years. Bill Paterson has volunteered to once again organize our annual contribution to Pitch-In Canada Week.

Plenty of hands makes the job quick and leaves our roadways clean and beautiful for the coming season.

So come on down to join Bill and your Association Executive at the boat ramp Saturday morning at 9.00 a.m. and Pitch-In.



Spring Update

North Bay Lake Road

Resurfacing of North Bay Lake Road was completed in late November for the assumed portion of the roadway.

Please drive with care during the early spring season, as the melting of the frost in the roadway has left numerous potholes and ruts. It will take a bit of time before the new road surface settles.

Fire Permits/Outdoor burning Bylaw

As we do each spring, we wish to remind residents and visitors that effective April 1st, Fire Permits are required for all outdoor fires. Permits will be required until October 31st.

No open-air burning is allowed between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on any day. The issuing of Fire Permits is dependent upon the risk level of forest fire in the area.

Please check the Fire Risk Sign on Bay Lake road for the current risk levels.

Fire Permits may be obtained at:

- the Township office,
- The Transfer/ Recycle Centre on Highway 592,
- Hope's Foodland.



Red Squirrel



Raccoon

Sky Gazing

Written by Janice Paterson

Good Sky Gazing requires dark skies. Our skies are much darker than those of folks living in the city but our skies are beginning to suffer light pollution. So it is good to see Dark Sky Preserves are continuing to be established in Canada. In November 2012, a new preserve was created at the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre in the Bruce Peninsula. We are fortunate to be close to the first dark sky preserve established in Canada at Torrance Barrens near Gravenhurst.

Visit the Torrance Barrens for a good view of the night sky or visit in the daylight to enjoy the nature trails created by the Township of Muskoka Lakes Recreational Trails Committee. This is a unique landscape of rocky ridges and wetlands where a wide variety of birds and animals make their home. The trails are accessible from the parking area at Highland Pond off District Road 13.



Torrance Barrens - Google image

Learn More about Torrance Barrens from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/torrance-barrens-dark-sky-preserve>

The Nature Nut

Written by Janice Paterson

Everyone's Favourite Critter - The Chipmunk

Each spring we look forward to the return of the Eastern Chipmunk. A mild and sunny March day will stir the little ground squirrel from torpor in his underground burrow. He can be seen foraging in pines and cedars or where the warm sun has melted back the snow cover. If temperatures dip again, he will go back to his burrow, curl up and doze until the weather warms once more. The Chipmunk is easily recognized by his beautifully striped markings. He is curious, is easily tamed and can be taught to beg for food, making him popular with cottagers and especially with children.

Chipmunks live from 2 to 5 years and can have 1-2 litters per year, depending on the length of the warm season. Last year's early spring meant the opportunity for 2 litters which consist of 4-5 babies. Female chipmunks are able to reproduce at as young as 3 months old.

Chipmunks prefer deciduous forests with lots of brush for cover and bulbs, seeds, fruits and nuts for food. Gardeners beware of their taste for bulbs! They also eat mushrooms, insects, slugs, worms, frogs, mice, snakes, eggs, and of course, whatever free morsels their cottager neighbours will share with them.

Predators that hunt them are hawks, foxes, raccoons, weasels, snakes, ravens and herons, not to mention the domestic cat. The chipmunk once it matures, leads a territorial and solitary life. We often hear the distinctive scolding barrage of chirping as the Chippie defends its cache of food from his neighbours. I look forward to hearing it again.



In the Neighbourhood

Earth Day Festival, Town of Huntsville,

Saturday April 20th, 2013, Location in and outside the Algonquin Theatre

There will be activities for the kids, a noted environmental speaker, and a charity auction, for more information go to: www.algonquintheatre.ca

Earth Day 2013, - Monday April 22.



The theme for earth day this year is "The Face of Climate Change". How did Earth Day get started? Observance of Earth Day came about from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. Some commemorate the day on the Spring Equinox and some on April 22 each year. Celebrate Earth Day by spending time with nature. Enjoy some fresh air, listen to bird song and generally celebrate the beauty of the earth around us.

Huntsville Festival of the Arts - May Marché,

May 24th, 7.00 p.m. Deerhurst Resort

This event is a major fundraiser for the Festival of the Arts, as well as, a delicious event. You will enjoy a great evening of food-tasting from some of the area's finest restaurants, try wines and beer samples from a wide variety of vendors, plus get to bid on the Silent Auction.

For ticket information: Festival of the Arts or info@huntsvillfestival.on.ca



RCMP MUSICAL RIDE COMING TO BURKS FALLS, June 1st
Burks Falls Fair Grounds

The Armour, Ryerson and Burks Falls Agricultural Society will be presenting the RCMP Musical Ride at the Fair Grounds in Burks Falls. The Musical Ride has been performing for Canadians since 1887. Over the years, the popularity of the Musical Ride has grown and it has become a world renowned attraction.

Other activities and attractions are also planned for visitors.

Watch for details to come in the Almaguin News.



A full colour version of this newsletter is posted to our website at:

www.baylakeontario.ca

All articles are written and submitted by volunteer members of your association executive.

Please send comments and suggestions to: president@baylakeontario.ca