

# Summer 2014



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**BAY LAKE**  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

[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

What continues to be our Number One topic at Bay Lake this summer?

This is easy, of course, it's the weather!

Being well-watered, our plants are flourishing and the lake level is higher than we have come to expect in late July. The abnormally low temperatures suit some people, but after the winter of 2013/14 I must say that I expected something better from summer. It would have been good to find myself complaining of PLUS 30 degrees!

The BLPOA Executive and volunteers have been busy with the usual planned events. A report on our May long-weekend annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction is in this issue. Fun Day was held on the July long weekend at Winning Techniques. You will find in this issue some pictures which Carol Gibson was kind enough to forward from that sunny day. In addition, some of us were present at the Boat Ramp on July 12 for our annual session of Benthic Testing of the lake water. Now, as mentioned in our last issue, the Annual General Meeting is upon us, to be held at 9am in the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Community Hall on Sunday, August

10th. Our speaker, Katy McGregor from Northern Disposal and Sanitation, will share her expertise on Septic Systems.

At the AGM, the new Executive for 2014-15 will be approved. As always, we are looking for people to fill-in the various positions. To keep up the good work, many hands and heads are needed! Please help the Executive continue to keep our lake (YOUR lake!) a healthy and safe community for us and future generations.

*'Best, Sarah Adams*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
Sunday, August 10: 9:00 am **Annual General Meeting**

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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We are making a concerted effort this summer/fall to connect with as many property owners as possible with a view to signing-up new members, and rejuvenating memberships which have lapsed. 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).

Your continued support is needed and very much appreciated.

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## HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

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As the president of the BLPOA, I receive from time to time an earful on things that are unlawful, bad-for-the-lake, noisy, dangerous, etc. etc.

It is worth reiterating that the Association cannot be a solver of all problems that are encountered at and around the lake. There are official jurisdictions to handle specific complaints: speeding - OPP / fireworks and fire violations - Township of Perry Bylaw Officer / dumping sand into the lake - MNR. The list goes on. Often, however, just a respectful word to the offending party can alleviate the problem.

While the Association encourages safe and responsible interaction with our environment and properties, we cannot directly intervene in such matters. We will happily direct you to the appropriate authority where you can voice your concern.

*Sarah Adams*

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Just a reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 10 starting at 9:00 am at the Winning Techniques hall (formerly the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall). The speaker will be Katy McGregor from Northern Disposal & Sanitation, who will share her expertise on Septic Systems.

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## PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION

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A frosty morning greeted us when we went to the Hall to set up on Sunday, May 18th. In fact, icy cold melt was dripping through the roof in the outer hallway, making for a chilly entrance-way where the ticket and membership tables were set up. Thanks to the stalwart volunteers who persevered at their posts!

The promise of delicious pancakes and sausages, plus fresh fruit compliments of Susan Friedman, brought almost 200 people out. Many people stayed around to enjoy a chat with their neighbours or to find out if they had made the winning bid on items in the Silent Auction.

Our Silent Auction tables were overflowing with more than 100 separate items! This goes to show the amazing amount of support that we get from property owners and their relatives and associates, and also from local businesses. The web site lists all businesses that support the BLPOA and we hope that you will take this into consideration when you shop for goods or services in our area.

With the high number of items, there was certainly something for everyone...from babies to the elderly...and \$1,836 was raised to help support the activities of the Association.

If there is one thing that we learned from this year's Pancake Breakfast, it is that Bay Lakers are a coffee drinking crowd, and we surely need to invest in another 100 cup coffee maker!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this most successful fund-raiser.



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## IN MEMORIAM

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We are saddened to report that Rita McMahon and Jean Bailey, two matriarchs of Bay Lake, passed away this Spring.

Rita, who was a long time property owner on North Bay Lake Road, was in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year when she died in March.

Jean passed away in April, having lived into her 98<sup>th</sup> year. Her son Dan informed us in a letter that his mother loved Bay Lake and its people and that the family plans to carry on with the family traditions started in 1962 on Benfair Island.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of both these remarkable women.

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## FUN DAY

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As you can see from the pictures below, Fun Day was a big success again this year. Kids and adults alike had a great time. Many thanks to Winning Techniques for making their staff and facilities available to us.



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## NEWS FROM PERRY TOWNSHIP

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The **Public Library** staff will be happy to help you with your new e-reader and iPad in downloading books for free. Further details at [www.perrytwplibrary.com](http://www.perrytwplibrary.com). Also, the library has lots of books for sale. Bring in your own bag and fill it for \$3.

**Fire Permits** are required for Open Air Fire Burning. These can be obtained from the Recycling Centre (the "dump") on Hwy 592 or from the Gas Bar at Foodland in Novar.

**Alarms** - Carbon monoxide and smoke alarms are now mandatory in Ontario. Replace any carbon monoxide alarms that are over 7 years old. Fire Department personnel will be visiting residences to ensure that smoke alarms are present on every level of dwellings and outside all sleeping areas.

**911 Signs** (Civic Address Number) -- The Township reminds residents to ensure that their sign is not obstructed by foliage and is clearly visible from the road. If your number is missing you should have it replaced immediately. Furthermore, lanes and driveways must be accessible for emergency vehicles for services such as Ambulance, Police, or Fire.

**Water Monitoring Grant Program 2014** -- We have acquired an application for this initiative and will be pursuing funding under the program.

**MTO Project to replace Hwy 592 Ragged Creek & CNR Overhead Bridges** - A letter has been received from Morrison Hershfield, the engineers responsible for this project, in which they seek information on existing conditions or sensitivities in the study area. If anyone is interested in this, please read and respond to the letter which has been posted at the BLPOA signboard.



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## MILKWEED AND MONARCHS

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The number of monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico hit an all-time low this past winter. The cause was two-fold – severe weather in Mexico and the virtual eradication of milkweed plants on their migratory route to Canada.

Milkweed is the main food source for monarch females and caterpillars. However, it is also a poisonous plant that can sicken or kill livestock when it is mixed in with their feed. Because of this, farmers have been doing battle with it for years with a view to eliminating it from their fields through the use of pesticides. This, combined with genetically modified crops, is considered to be the cause of the 90 per cent drop in the monarch populations over the past twenty years.

This past spring the David Suzuki Foundation launched a campaign to establish a butterfly corridor through the heart of Toronto by offering milkweed plants for sale. The plants were made available through the North American Native Plant Society. The response to this initiative was overwhelming and the milkweed plants sold like hot cakes, selling out within a couple of weeks.

We have lots of milkweed growing around Bay Lake, so why not try to sow some in your city gardens when the plant goes to seed. Perhaps more monarchs will make it to our environs next summer.

Good news – monarch butterflies have been spotted recently on Bay Lake Road. The bad news is there were only one or two. Let's do what we can to bring them back.



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## LET'S PROTECT OUR LOONS

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In BLPOA Newsletter from the winter of 1988 there was an article on the common loon with a picture of one of the birds that had been caught up in fishing line which was wrapped around its tongue and legs. Three days later, on August 16, 1988, the loon died.

Last August (2013) the same scenario played out and another loon perished on Bay Lake. Nylon fishing line was entangled around its wing and it had an obvious wound, perhaps from a hook embedded in its body.

To help protect our loons, we are asking everyone not to leave fishing debris like floats and line in the lake. We also request that fishing tackle not include anything made of lead, which is poisonous to diving birds.

Loons are extremely territorial birds that claim ownership of a lake. Their rule is one pair of loons, one lake.

Their courting ritual, often heard at night, sounds spectacular and



their varied and haunting calls have been described as thrilling, maniacal, bloodcurdling, weird yodelling or likened to a wolf wail. They nest at water's edge, preferably on an island. Loon eggs, however, are porous and the embryos are susceptible to drowning if the nest is swamped.

It has been several years since we have had loons reproduce on Bay Lake. Getting them to nest is seemingly a delicate operation, and the loon platform on the eastern end of the lake has unfortunately not lured them.

Many lakes no longer have loons. They have been driven off by motorized water craft. It would be a shame if this happens at Bay Lake. Please be respectful of them.