



Summer Newsletter

Issue Date: JUNE 26, 2013

www.baylakeontario.ca

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Annual Fun Day

When: *Saturday July 6th, 2013

(*please note date change)

12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Winning Techniques Camp
(Parking at the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall)

Calling all “kids who want to have fun”!

There will be face painting, rock climbing, games, prizes, hot dogs and more.

Hope to see you there, rain or shine!



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)

Message from the President:

Welcome!

The summer season is upon us and once again I'd like to welcome our seasonal residents back to the lake.

Although the season has just begun, we have already held our Annual Pancake Breakfast which took place on Sunday May 19th. I'd like to thank all of our volunteers and those of you who supported by attending for making the event a big success.

THANK YOU.

Happy Anniversary

On March 28, 2013, the Township of Perry marked its 125th Anniversary. To celebrate this occasion, the Township has planned an Anniversary Celebration for Saturday June 25th (the Canada Day weekend).

There will be a full day of activity and events in Novar, the Municipal office and at the Emsdale Fair Grounds. Further details can be found at www.townshipofperry.ca



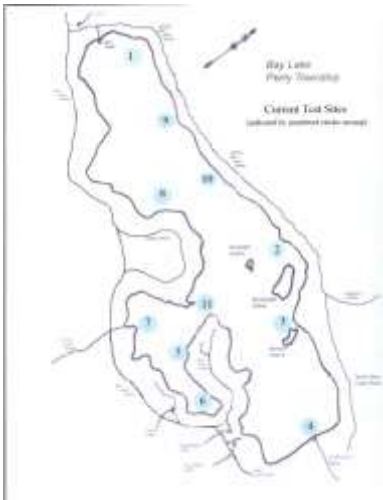
Forest Fire Hazard Rating Signs

The threat of Forest fires is always a major threat and concern to all of us. This risk has been highlighted during the past few years when we experienced drought like conditions and several bush fires in close proximity to Bay Lake.

To assist us in our efforts to inform residents and visitors of hazardous conditions and to promote awareness of fire prevention, we wrote the Township requesting a new fire hazard sign for Bay Lake.

I am pleased to advise you that the Town has approved our request. We hope to see the new sign erected on the North East corner of Bay Lake and North Bay Lake Roads prior to our busy occupancy/tourist season. Special thanks to David Adams for making this happen.





Water Testing Sponsorship sites

We currently take water samples for analysis 4 times a year from 11 sites on the lake. The cost of testing is \$44.00 per site and each year we seek sponsors to help defer these costs.

I am pleased to advise that our sponsorship program for the year is fully subscribed. Further details of our sponsors and water test results can be found on our website under the Environment page.

Wishing you and your family a happy and safe summer

Glen Vey

Benthic Testing

July 14th, 10.00 a.m.

Written by Bill Paterson



For newcomers on the lake, I will give a brief tutorial on Benthic Testing.

The benthos are all the minute critters that inhabit lakes and rivers. They are some of the very smallest creatures and we all walk and swim among them each time we go into our lake. When looked at under a microscope, it is amazing to see their complexity and once you know about them you will have a better understanding of their part in the eco system that is Bay Lake.

We test our lake for benthos because monitoring these small creatures provides first indicators of good or bad conditions in the water. Some are very acid resistant, some can tolerate high levels of pollution but others are not so lucky.

When we perform Benthic testing a technician (graciously supplied by the District of Muskoka) collects buckets full of mucky water that she/he has stirred up at the test site. From this bucket cups of water are distributed in shallow trays to the volunteer checkers (hopefully a lot of you will volunteer). We then try to capture anything that moves in that tray and put it in a small petri dish. Capture is by tweezers or eye dropper





suction. These dishes are given back to the technician who will identify the critters and count them. We need to have over 100 critters from each test bucket to make an official record. We obviously are hoping to find lots of the pollution intolerant critters as that shows the water quality of our lake is good. Afterwards, the technician takes the samples and counts back to the lab, produces a report that provides us with comparisons to other lakes in the Muskoka Watershed.

We will be adding those results to our records from last year at this site and the previous 4 years at two other sites.

For anyone interested in nature and our lake water, this is a perfect opportunity to see, first hand, one of the ways we can judge water condition. It is also a great way to meet like minded neighbours for a morning of productive socializing.

Benthic testing will take place July 14th at 10:00 AM and should take about 3 hours.

Call Bill Paterson, 705-636-0568 to volunteer

Water Testing - Adopt-A-Site Program

Water testing began again on Bay Lake on the May 24th weekend, and will be 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. We would like again to thank all those who adopted a site or renewed their sponsorship of a site for our 2013 testing program.

All test results will be posted to our website when available. To view these test results go to: [Baylakeontario/Water Testing](http://Baylakeontario.com/Water-Testing)

Please Do Not Feed Ducks

Why we do not feed the ducks:

- Ducks become reliant on human food, abandoning their natural nutrition sources which may cause them health issues.
- Ducks concentrate in feeding areas resulting in increased e-coli levels.
- Ducks delay or eliminate their migration

Pitch-In Day Update

written by Bill Paterson

Saturday April 20th started with a centimeter of snow covering everything, which did not bode well for Pitch-In Day.

Fourteen people arrived and were assigned routes to cover. Because of the snow cover we were apprehensive about how much would be gathered but we persevered and came up with a lot of stuff.

After sorting and re-bagging into crammed full bags, we ended with three bags of recyclables (plastics, tin cans, bottles etc.), two bags of fibres (paper, wood, juice boxes etc.), and a small bag of returnable bottles and cans that went to the Lion's Club charitable donations collection area. We had only one large bag of garbage.

We hope our residents will help out by picking up any stray bits of refuse that we were unable to see in the frozen snow drifts that remained on the shady side of the roads.

Thanks to all the volunteers who came out on a cold day to help make this another successful Pitch-In Day on Bay Lake. Thanks also to Dave Brown at CTV News Toronto for his plug on the CTV News Weather Segment Thursday, April 18th. A special thanks to Sarah and David Adams who generously opened their home to serve Sarah's wonderful home made soups to a bunch of slightly frozen volunteers.



Summer Update

Summer boating season is back and we hope all will enjoy their time on the lake. Please take care to ensure you have fun safely. Remember, beer on the pier, water on the water. Life jackets on board for all.

Boaters should also be aware that we do have aircraft that take-off and land on Bay Lake. Please clear the area when planes are approaching or taking off.

[MNR Forest Fire Danger Map for Ontario](#)

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.

Sky Gazing

Written by Janice Paterson

Persied Meteorite Showers

The big event in the summer sky each year is always the Persied Meteorite Showers. It's a great night to set up your lounge chairs on the dock, lay back and watch the show. I remember as a child staying up late to see the meteorites and competing with my brothers to see who could count the most "shooting stars". This year the peak will fall on Monday afternoon August 12th, but there should still be plenty of action on Saturday the 10th, and Sunday the 11th. The moon will not be a factor this year as it will be thin and will be setting early. All we will need is clear skies to view approximately 50 meteors per hour.

These meteors are called the Persied because they appear to come from the constellation Perseus in the Northeast sky.



Apps for Stargazers

Sky News Magazine, a Canadian Publication gave high praise for a \$3.00 App for iPhones and I Pad called Star Walk. I use a similar app on my phone. These apps are great tools to help us identify features in the night sky. Simply hold the phone in front of the part of the sky you are looking at and up comes the identification.

The Nature Nut

Written by Janice Paterson

Monarch Butterflies are in Trouble



Monarch butterflies are a part of summer here in Canada. I can't imagine an August without the site of these jewels of the butterfly world fluttering amongst the summer flowers in my garden

Declining Monarch populations have been monitored for many years. A new census of Monarchs in their wintering area in Mexico identifies a steep decline in numbers over the last 6 years. Hibernating Monarchs used to cover an area of 50 acres in this wintering area, in the recent census that area has shrunk to only 2.94 acres.*



There are many reasons for the decline. Logging threatens the hibernation grounds in Mexico. Monarchs completely depend on the Milkweed plant which has been widely eliminated by herbicide use along the migration path. Last year, we had an early warm spring, but in the southern U.S. where the Monarch were moving north weather was unseasonably cold. Later on Butterflies arriving here were faced with hotter, drier weather than usual, which reduced the successful hatch of the eggs.

So how can we help? Protect or encourage Milkweed plants on your property to ensure those butterflies that do arrive can reproduce and hopefully help the numbers rebound.

*Source material Canadian Wildlife May-June 2013

In the Neighbourhood

Parry Sound 125 Anniversary Celebrations -

Saturday, June 29th, See flyer for details: www.townshipofperry.ca

Creative Changes Art Show & Sale, Kearney

Wine & Cheese Reception Friday, July 5th, 7.00-9.30 p.m.

Art Show & Sale, Saturday and Sunday, July 6, 7th, 10 am - 5 pm

Kids Art Splash, Huntsville

July 7th, Noon - 3.00 pm On the Docks - free fun for kids.

Events

Another Successful Pancake Breakfast

It was great to see so many people who came out and enjoy themselves at the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Our volunteers had to work extra hard to keep up with the full house that we had. Speaking of volunteers, thank you once again for all of your hard work, we would not be able to do this without you. A special thanks to Sarah Adams, who co-ordinated the event this year.

Thank you to those who contributed to our Silent Auction table, we had some fantastic items that helped us to raise almost \$1,000.00. You can check out the "Supporters" page of our website to view the local businesses who helped to support our event this year.

Congratulations to Karen Brown who won the door prize (maple syrup donated by the Wilkins) and to Meagan Walsh who won an amazing \$260 from the 50-50 ticket sales. This may have been record!

Upcoming Events

Fun Day

When: Saturday July 6, 2013

Time: 12noon – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Winning Techniques Camp

Annual General Meeting

When: Sunday August 11, 2012

Time: 9:00 am – noon

Where: Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall

(Speaker will be announced in a future bulletin)

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