



Winter 2014

NEWSLETTER



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

A clear blue sky with brilliant sunshine, pristine white snow, and a temperature of minus 33 C. That is a description of our walk on Bay Lake this morning...perfect peace and quiet except for the crunching of our boots on the squeaking crisp snow. If you haven't experienced our lake at this time of year, I would highly recommend it. Layer your clothes and venture out to breathe the fresh clear air that is our winter wonderland.

On the Family Day Holiday Weekend we are encouraging such a treat by sponsoring a **Winter Fun Day on Saturday, February 15**. This event will include a Fishing Derby for those wishing to try out ice fishing. See *Winter Family Fun Day & Fishing Derby* on page 3 for details.

As time marches on – now into 2014 -- we see changes around the lake. New owners and residents move in and others move on. Our summer-only owners will notice some changes when they open-up in May. Please offer a warm welcome to your new neighbours. Each of us was new once and advice is always sought on some aspect or

other regarding the lake, services, handymen, etc. With many regrets, we learned last week of the death of Richard Lambert. Janice Paterson has written an account of Richard's life on Bay Lake and his contributions to the BLPOA (see *Fond Farewells* on page 3). Our deepest sympathy is extended to Trish, the entire family and friends.

A new day reaches out for us here in the frozen north. Whether it is sledding, skiing, skating or snowshoeing – enjoy, but keep safe. New adventures await us in the Spring and Summer at Bay Lake.

Best, Sarah Adams

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, **February 15** - 9 am – 4 pm
Saturday, **April 12** - 9 am
Sunday, **May 18** - 9 am - noon

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We will be **updating the signboard** in mid-February with the names of those owners who have paid dues for the current year, which runs from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

If you do not have a membership for this year, there are a number of options available to you:

- Renew at one of our upcoming events (Winter Fun Day, Pitch-In Day, Pancake Breakfast)
- Mail a cheque (\$40) payable to BLPOA to: Box 120, Novar, ON P0A 1R0
- Pay through PayPal via our website: www.baylakeontario.ca
- Give your payment to any Executive member

Your receipt is your membership card, which will be mailed after payment is received.

PITCH-IN DAY

Saturday, April 12th - 9 am at the Boat Ramp

Thanks to Bill Paterson for co-ordinating this event. It's all hands on deck as teams are dispatched from the Boat Ramp with garbage bags, work gloves and pick-up sticks to collect any litter strewn around Bay Lake. Last year, we had snow the night before our clean-up, and although this proved challenging, we still managed to collect a lot of garbage and recycling materials.

Please come out, lend a hand and help us keep Bay Lake beautiful and litter-free.



EARTH HOUR

Saturday, March 29th - 8:30 – 9:30 pm
Lights Out for One Hour

This event promotes awareness of our responsibility to save energy and encourages us to look to a sustainable future. Millions world-wide turn off their lights at 20:30 hours on the last Saturday in March each year. It is a good time to enjoy the glow of candle light and think about our dependence on electricity.

Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 when 2.2 million homes and businesses switched off their lights for the hour; thus, taking a stand against climate change. Since then the popularity of the observance has spread. Iconic structures, such as Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Rome's Colosseum and the CN Tower in Toronto followed suit. In 2008, more than 50 million people in 35 countries participated. So in 2014 let's join the hundreds of millions now taking part...and hope for a clear night to enjoy the beauty of our night sky.

WINTER PARKING BY-LAW

The Township of Perry has asked that:

- *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.*

Such persons will be guilty of an offense and liable, upon conviction, to a fine.

This is a safety issue, so it is the responsibility of property owners to **relay this information to visitors and renters.**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, May 18 – 9 am – 12 noon
Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall

This is our largest event of the year, requiring considerable planning and preparation. While we appreciate the many volunteers who help year after year we also require and **welcome new volunteers**. Volunteers are the secret to the ongoing success of this event.

If you would like to volunteer at this, or any other BLPOA event, please email president@baylakeontario.ca.

Donations to the Silent Auction are always welcome. Please consider donating or re-gifting items to our auction. If you are associated with a business, perhaps they might consider supporting the silent auction with a donation. Our website lists all businesses to recognize their contributions.

FOND FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that we share with you the peaceful passing, in Huntsville Hospital, of Richard (Dick) Lambert on Wednesday January 15th, 2014, in his 91st year.

Dick took his first look at Bay Lake in the late 60's, knew immediately he wanted to be part of life on Bay Lake and purchased a cottage on North Bay Lake Road shortly thereafter. He was a founding member of our lake association, sat on the early association executive, and with his wife Trish performed water testing duties for the association for many years. Dick volunteered and participated in many events on the lake over the years, including serving up pancakes at our Pancake breakfast before his health made these activities too difficult.

Dick loved Bay Lake, loved nature, and was famous in the area for his beautiful garden. He will be dearly missed by Trish, his loving wife of 31 years, and by all his friends on Bay Lake. Trish is planning a Celebration of Life at their home at Easter. Information will be made available later.

WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY & FISHING DERBY

Bay of Fun Dayz
Southwest Bay at Maple Drive
Hosted by Randy and Karren Smith and
sponsored by the BLPOA

Saturday, February 15 from 9 am until 4 pm
All Welcome!

- Bon Fire on shore
- Warm-up Tent
- Hot Dogs, Chili, Hot Beverages

Skating...X-country skiing...Snow-shoeing...Sledding...ATV...Ice Fishing

Fish Contest:

- \$5 Registration Fee will go to the Bay Lake Fish Fund
- Fish anywhere on the lake, but only in-season fish will be weighed and entered into the contest
- Prizes for largest and smallest fish
- No license required this weekend, courtesy of the Ontario Government

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

**NO TRUCKS OR AUTOMOBILES ARE
PERMITTED ON THE LAKE!**

WILD TURKEYS AT BAY LAKE

A flock of at least thirteen wild turkeys are frequenting the areas around the Little East River outlet on Bay Lake Road.



This spring at least one hen (adult female) was seen nesting around the Maple Drive area and spotted later with her young (poults).



We learn from the MNR that wild turkeys have excellent vision and hearing but appear to have a poor sense of smell. Despite their supposedly keen ear, they are not too swift in getting off the road at times when a vehicle approaches.

Our lake is located at the uppermost part of their Ontario habitat. These birds are known to adapt well to a range of habitat conditions so long as there is a forested area where they can roost at night.

Nesting occurs in the spring when the hens create a nest bowl on the ground. They will lay 10-12 eggs in this nest, which is lined with grass and leaves. The hen takes about 12 or 15 days to lay a complete clutch of eggs, and the eggs will incubate for 26-28 days. The hen will remain on the ground at night with her poults for about the first 2 weeks, at which time they will begin to fly short distances and roost in shrubs and trees.



Like other birds, the hens are sensitive to disturbances and may opt in such cases to abandon their nests. If predators, including skunks, snakes or crows, consume the eggs or poults, another set of eggs may be produced with attempts to reproduce continuing into August in Ontario.

The average life expectancy of a wild turkey is 1-2 years although some have been known to live longer than 10 years. The chief predators for the hens and gobblers (adult males) are coyotes and foxes, but even raccoons and great-horned owls will provide a threat.

The adult turkeys will eat a wide variety of wild foods such as acorns, seeds, wild grapes, berries, green vegetation, insects and snails. The poults feed mostly on insects during their first weeks of life. The average adult gobblers can weigh about 19 lbs while the hens weigh approximately 10 lbs.

Given the extreme cold temperatures these past several weeks, it is surprising that their claw prints can still be seen on Bay Lake Road around the outlet area. Keep your eyes peeled and you may be lucky enough to get a glimpse of our wild turkeys.

Source: MNR Wild Turkey Biology

