



Summer Newsletter

Message from President

by Glen Vey

Inside This Issue

1 Message from the President

2 Summer Update

3 Environment Report

4 The Nature Nut

5 Sky Gazing

5 In the Neighbourhood

6 Upcoming Events

-Fun Day

-Annual General Meeting

Another summer season has begun, and we welcome our seasonal residents back to the lake.

In preparation for the summer, the Volunteer Executive has been busy updating the Web Site, launching our re-designed Newsletter, ongoing water testing, and hosting and planning our calendar of events for the year. In addition to these projects, another significant accomplishment achieved this year was the transfer of "management responsibilities" at the Outlet from the Association, to the Township of Perry. Thank you to the many volunteers who, over the years, worked diligently at the outlet to maintain suitable water levels on the lake.

While this has been a very productive and successful year, we continue to rely solely on our volunteers, if we are to sustain the association and keep it viable. Over the past few years many of our strong supporters and volunteers on the Executive, have moved from the lake or are now unable, for a variety of reasons, to contribute as they had in the past. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in our efforts to replace them, and I am once again asking for new members to join and bring fresh ideas and expertise to our group. As an example, our Treasurer is in the process of selling his cottage, and we will eventually need to replace him with someone with an accounting interest/ background. This is just one of many critical positions that we will have to fill next year.

Our seasonal residents/cottagers (myself included), make up the majority of the Executive. While we rely heavily on their continued support, my appeal this year is primarily focused at the full time residents who live on the lake year round, and are not well represented on the Executive. This is your home, and backyard, and you have an opportunity to have a say in how it is managed, and to ensure that the efforts to maintain the quality of the lake and surrounding environment are continued. Without increased participation from our residents, we will be unable to sustain our efforts as we have in the past.

If you have any questions regarding participation on the executive, please feel free to contact me at president@baylakeontario.ca

Nominations for the Executive will be held at the AGM, on Saturday August 12, 2012, and I strongly encourage you to support your Executive by first attending this important meeting, and to give consideration to joining our team.

Glen Vey

The Association is working 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 the MNR, MoE, and Perry Township when relevant issues arise
- promoting our community with annual events
- communications
 - Newsletters and website
 - www.baylakeontario.ca

Summer Update

Please Be Alert for Pedestrians and Other Roadway Obstacles

It is summer time. Cottagers and residents are strolling, jogging, biking and running on the roadways around our lake. Please help make this a safe, and enjoyable pastime. Slow for pedestrians. Not only are we using the road, but so is the local wildlife. An early morning trip to town surprised a group of nine turkeys, standing in the middle of Bay Lake Road this spring.



Group of nine turkeys moving off the roadway on Bay Lake Rd

Boating Safety

Please see the link to the right, for information on how to have safe and enjoyable boating this summer.

Transport Canada - Office of Boating Safety:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>

Gravel for North Bay Lake Rd - Update

Dave Creaser, the roads superintendent for the Township of Perry, recently advised one of your executive members, that gravel is still scheduled to be put down on North Bay Lake Rd this year, but that no date for this work has yet been scheduled.

Discouraging Visits from Bears to Your Property

Residents on North Bay Lake Road have reported the visit of a very large black bear this month. With the recent cancellation of the MNR bear capture program, it is very important not to attract bear visits. A [Bears](#) tab has been added to our website with information on how to avoid attracting bears, and what to do if confronted by a bear.

MNR Bear Wise - Report a Problem Bear site:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Bearwise/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_167690.html

Ministry of Natural Resources - The Rabies Reporter

Good News - No Cases of Rabies were reported by The Rabies Reporter, in our area, from January to December of 2011.

The Rabies Reporter is a scientific newsletter about current issues in rabies research, and control, and is a joint effort of the Rabies Research Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, The Rabies Laboratory at the Ottawa Laboratory of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

A thank you goes out to Dick and Trish Lambert, who have provided a copy of this publication to the executive for many years.

The Rabies Reporter is also available on line at:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@rabies/documents/document/stdprod_093595.pdf

Environment

by Bill Paterson

Duck Boxes

This spring, we had five duck boxes built. We mounted them in areas we hoped would attract wood ducks, or mergansers. Our aim in this, is to return these ducks to the lake. Most of us can remember watching a mother merganser leading her string of babies around the lake, teaching them to dive, and watching them run on the water to catch up, when they forgot to pay attention. These are diving/fishing ducks that don't congregate around docks looking for handouts, and thus have a much lower impact on our e-coli levels than the Mallards, and Black ducks, that some cottagers feed. Biodiversity means trying to embrace all of the wildlife that has, and can live in and on our lakes.

Paddlers should stay well away from these boxes, to allow the ducks to use them without disturbance. The same is requested for the loon raft. Unfortunately, we think the early spring also brought the loons early, and it appears, we may not have got the raft into position soon enough.

Snorkeler Needed

We are still looking for help from amateur divers, or snorkelers, to locate the third warning float belonging to the loon raft, which we believe has slipped below the lake surface, into a deep water hole.

We also need to replace the raft tie-down wires with nylon ropes, as the water has corroded two of the wires. This requires diving to the anchors to attach the new ropes. If you can help, please contact [Bill Paterson](#).

Water Test Results

Our first water test samples for e-coli were taken May 24 weekend. All results are well within standards. These results will be posted on our website shortly. We now have 6 of 10 testing sites that have been adopted. You too can help by adopting a site for the small amount of \$43.00 which covers e-coli testing four times. Please contact [Bill Paterson](#) for information.

Benthic Testing

We are looking for volunteers to help with our annual Benthic testing. This is a fun way to find out how healthy our lake is by finding, and counting, the tiny creatures that live in the bottom muck around our shoreline. Thanks, again, to the District of Muskoka, which has provided a technician to assist us again this year. Benthic testing will take place **July 11th**, at the Cook's shoreline at 90 King Side Road. If you can help, please contact [Bill Paterson](#) for information.



Duck box



Missing loon nesting sign



Benthic Testing Technician
taking samples 2011

The Nature Nut.

by Janice Paterson



Snapping Turtle sunning on a rock in the Bay of Bay Lake. This turtle could be more than 50 years old!

Photo by John Dunn



The underside of a snapping turtle showing the narrow band of the lower shell.

Photo by Schottski

Spot an injured turtle? See the Cdn. Geographic article about the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Center :

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/apr12/kawartha_turtle_trauma_centre.asp

[Turtles at Risk in Ontario](#)

Debunking the Myths About Snapping Turtles.

Snapping turtles have been living in Bay Lake long before people arrived. Since cottage development began in Ontario, snapping turtle numbers have sharply declined. The turtle is now listed as a special concern species under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. The decline is partly due to direct killing by people frightened of the snapping turtle in the water, or by anglers, who incorrectly feel fish stocks are threatened by the turtle .

A full grown snapping turtle is perfectly at home in the water, and has no natural enemies, therefore, it has no reason to be aggressive. It does not consider humans as a source of food, and so does not attack swimmers or bathers. It is very slow moving, and so, is not a threat to healthy fish stock. The turtle prefers to crawl around on the bottom of the lake, looking for injured, ill or aging fish. Turtles provide a useful service for the lake environment, because of the scavenging they do.

I once left a stringer of fish in the water by my dock, with plans to clean them after I had my lunch. I returned to find only fish heads left on the line. A snapping turtle was attracted to the distress of the fish, and since the fish couldn't escape, the turtle got an easy meal.

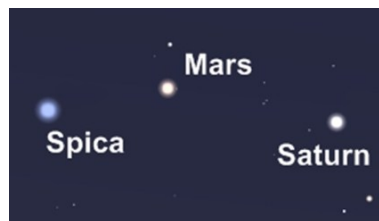
So how does the Snapping Turtle get its name? This turtle is the only Ontario Turtle that does not have a full shell. Unlike our other native turtles, it is unable to pull itself into the armor of a protective shell, when frightened or attacked. Since the turtle can not sprint away when approached on land, it will try to defend itself by snapping. The neck is long and they have a pretty good reach.

I brake for Turtles

The other killer of turtles is the car. A recent survey of turtles in Ontario showed sharp declines, in all of our native species. Six of 8 Ontario species are considered at risk, one is considered threatened. More alarming - most turtles counted were males. Females are 15 years of age before they can lay eggs. Female turtles are falling victim to our ever increasing network of roads, as the urge to nest draws them up onto the roadway and to their deaths.

If you see a turtle crossing the road, stop and help it in the direction in which it was going. Experts suggest grasping the rear of the turtle shell, and supporting the underside of the turtle, while you move it. Never lift a turtle by their tail, this can result in serious injury or even the death of the turtle.

Sky Gazing



Mars, Saturn and Spica Conjunction August 10 -20 2012, Mars and Saturn will be visible close together in the evening twilight sky, to the unaided eye. Mid-month, Mars will change position relative to Saturn, as it, and Earth, move at different speeds in their respective orbits. Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo, acts as a fixed reference point to compare the movement of both planets. Look low above the Western horizon, at the end of evening twilight.



Fireworks (Google image)

In The Neighbourhood - There are too many activities to list them all. Here are some major activities this summer:

Canada Day Fire Works, July 1, River Mill Park, Huntsville Come out to River Mill Park for the singing of O' Canada accompanied by the Muskoka Concert Band performance. Enjoy Canada Day cake! Fireworks at dusk over Hunters Bay.

Art Splash, Huntsville, July 7, 12.00 pm free. A fun-filled afternoon of interactive arts and crafts, for kids of all ages. Paint a picture, make a craft, get your own tattoo or have your face painted. www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

Celebrate the Street and Nuit Blanche Nord, Huntsville July 9. Enjoy buskers on the street, children's games and activities, artists' demonstrations and sales, as well as performances from the renowned Edge of the Woods theatre company. Later in the evening prowl downtown venues, both indoor and outdoor, until the wee hours of the morning. www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

Firefly Festival, Huntsville, July 15 6.00 pm to midnight We close Huntsville's quaint Main Street to cars, and open everyone's eyes to an Friday evening of family fun, live music, great food and shopkeeper specials. The fireflies dance 'til midnight, and so will you. www.downtownhuntsvilleadventures.ca



Kids activities at Loggers Day

Algonquin Park Loggers Day July 28, 10.00 - 3pm This is a highly entertaining and educational day when the Algonquin Logging Museum comes to life, brought to you by The Friends of Algonquin Park, the Algonquin Forestry Authority and Ontario Parks. Take in the demonstrations around the Logging Museum trail and try the old-timer loggers' lunch served in the Sawlog cookery from 12:00 to 2:00pm (or while quantities last)



Logger Band

Huntsville Jazz Festival, July 28-30 This popular addition to the regular Festival events provides three great evenings of entertainment and jazz offerings throughout the community, including daylong concerts Saturday, July 30 in River Mill Park. www.huntsvillefestival.on.ca

Summer Sidewalk Adventure , Huntsville, August 20th The kids will love the activities. Everyone will love the live music. The downtown shops will be bursting out onto the street with bargains during this day long event. www.downtownhuntsvilleadventures.ca



Howling wolf - Google image

Algonquin Park Wolf Howl - August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wolf howling expeditions take place only on Thursdays in August, when weather and accessible wolves permit. There is a slide talk on wolf ecology and our changing perceptions of this elusive animal; and then we travel by car (on rare occasions, we walk) to a place where wild wolves may answer the imitations given by the Naturalist staff. <http://www.algonquinpark.on.ca/visit/programs/wolf-howls.php>



Climbing Wall available for Fun Day

Mark Your Calendar

Fun Day June 30

Annual General Meeting August 12

Corn Roast Sept 1

Should changes in dates be necessary we will post changes as soon as available.

Upcoming Events

by Sherry Vey

Pancake Breakfast a Great Success:

It was great to see so many people at our Annual Pancake Breakfast. We served over 180 people. The Silent Auction table was a big success raising over \$1,100. Thanks to all of you who donated auction items and to those who purchased them. Please check out our website and click on the Supporters page to see a list of the businesses that also donated items.

I don't recall ever having such a hot day for this event. Our kitchen staff and pancake cookers did amazingly well keeping their 'cool' on such a hot day. Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping make this longtime fundraiser a success.

Congratulations to our lucky 50/50 winner...Curtiss MacKinnon who won \$230.00 (wow)! Also to Alicia Farquhar who won the door prize (our new Bay Lake Map).

Fun Day, June 30, 12.00 - 2.30 pm

Location: Winning Techniques Camp

There will be games, races, water balloons, face painting, rock wall climbing, prizes and lots of fun for all! Bring the whole family for some fun and a free hot dog and soda!

Adam and Kim Grin of Winning Techniques Camp have once again generously offered the use of their property, climbing wall and the help of their trained counselors to help us make this a great event for all.

If the weather turns wet, we will move our activities into the Community Hall so don't let the rain keep you home.

Annual General Meeting, Sunday, August 12th, 9.00 - Noon

Speaker to be announced closer to the date. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Your support is important.

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

www.baylakeontario.ca

Unless otherwise noted photos are provided by J. Paterson