



# Spring 2015



[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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Also in this Newsletter is information about the Community Engagement Session which we attended, and plans for closure of the Water Spring at Savage Settlement Road and Hwy 592. Thanks to Joe Santella for forwarding the report.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Spring! The ice is finally gone after another long winter. Unfortunately, it dislodged a few docks from their cribs, and various items are now floating around the lake. Hopefully, the seasonal cottagers will be back soon to check out their places.

Your BLPOA Executive members are busy planning for our one-and-only fundraiser for the Association, namely the **PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION** on **Sunday, May 17** from 9 am until 12 noon.

Volunteers are needed for this event. If you can spend part of the morning, we'd be most grateful. Donations for our Silent Auction would also be gratefully accepted. Please contact me at [sdadams101@gmail.com](mailto:sdadams101@gmail.com) or 705-636-0414 if you can help.

You can also help by coming ready to bid on the many donated items. You're sure to get a great bargain!

The quality of our water is an area of focus at present. Many of you will have read (with horror) the problems with blue-green algae on neighbouring Clear Lake. The Health Authority have not yet lifted the warning off their lake. While the two lakes are close to each other, they are part of different watersheds and are not connected. However, we all need to seriously confront the possibility of blue-green algae and it is necessary for us to be vigilant regarding our water quality. A letter will be delivered to each dwelling around the lake to further press home this message. There is also another water-borne menace to watch out for. Read about it in the article on Jellification on page 3.

*Best, Sarah Adams*

Sunday, May 17: 9 am – noon  
Saturday, June 27  
Saturday, July 11  
Sunday, August 9: 9:00 am

**Pancake Breakfast  
Fun Day  
Hazardous Waste Day  
Annual General Meeting**

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## PITCH-IN DAY

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Saturday, April 18 was a beautiful day. After two consecutive years of dismal cold and precipitation, finally the weather co-operated for our clean-up around the lake. Twenty-four people were in attendance – a great turnout! Despite some frozen snow banks on the south side of the lake, a large amount of garbage, recyclables, and refundable alcohol containers was collected.

Many thanks to Bill Paterson for his vital role running this important community effort, and to all those residents who turned out to help.

As the snow continues to melt and more garbage is exposed, please pick it up so we can all enjoy a cleaner area around our lake.

Again, thank you, thank you!

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## WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

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The BLPOA co-sponsored this event with the Smith family on the Family Day Weekend. This year the weather was even colder than last. About 30 brave souls ventured out in the sub-zero bone-chilling temperature. We tried to combat the cold by serving chilli, hot dogs and hot drinks. The committee will need to do some hard thinking before making the effort to organize a mid-February event in 2016. Congratulations to Larry Thoms who won the Fishing Derby by catching the biggest – and perhaps the only – fish of the event!

Proceeds from this Fun Day were added to our Fish Fund.

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## WEBSITE PROBLEMS

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The Bay Lake website has been unavailable a couple of times over the past few months due to problems at the host's site. We are endeavouring to reconstruct the site and will keep you up to date on all the happenings.

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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The three residents from Bay Lake who attended this meeting on February 26th heard talks from representatives on the services available to us in our area.

In particular, the 211 phone number is an excellent resource. It provides guidance, information and referral in such areas as Health Services, Social Assistance, Housing, Government Programs, Financial Assistance, Seniors Support, Parenting Programs, etc. We also learned that you can speak with a real live person when you phone 211! Plus it's free, confidential, and is available in more than 150 languages.

For more information on the agencies involved please visit their web sites directly:

OPP - [www.opp.ca](http://www.opp.ca)

211 - [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca)

District of Parry Sound (Social Services Administration Board) - [www.psdssab.org](http://www.psdssab.org)

East & West Parry Sound Victim Services – [www.ewpsvs.ca/programs/victim-services](http://www.ewpsvs.ca/programs/victim-services)

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## SUMMER HOURS AT THE DUMP

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Effective May 1st the Recycle and Transfer Station (the dump) will change back to its spring/summer hours:

8:00 am to 4:00 pm Friday to Tuesday  
Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays

Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> is Hazardous Waste Day.

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## LOST, FOUND, OR FOR SALE

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**Found:** Muskoka chair

**For Sale:** Swim Dock

See the BLPOA Signboard for details.

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## FIREARMS

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The OPP were called to investigate a report of firearms being discharged on the south side of the lake this winter. Four individuals were seen shooting at objects that were being thrown into the air. To anyone who thinks this might be fun -- please recognize that this can be very dangerous and could have unintended results.

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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 9 starting at 9:00 am at the Winning Techniques hall (formerly the Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall). More details will follow in the next newsletter, but please mark your calendars to attend.

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## JELLIFICATION

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Water fleas, or Daphnia, are crustaceans that need a certain amount of calcium to survive and play their role in the freshwater food chain. Unfortunately, acid rain has reduced the amount of calcium in many Muskoka lakes to a level too low for Daphnia. This has opened the door for a tapioca-like, jelly-clad, calcium-poor critter called Holopedium to thrive. When these amass in a lake, the ensuing "jellification" isn't just ugly, it also has long-term consequences for fish stocks as Holopedium is difficult for them to eat and is low in calcium and phosphorous. Holopedium can also clog water intake lines.

One experiment tried adding lime to lakes and surrounding forest to try to increase calcium levels, but it was only moderately successful. It is believed, however, we can help by leaving trees that fall in the lake and not disturbing the breeding grounds for our aquatic creatures. As for a permanent solution, we'll have to be patient and wait.

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## WATER SPRING ON HWY 592

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The MTO will be replacing the bridge that spans the Little East River on Highway 592 at Savage Settlement Road. Those people who have been getting their water from the spring there will be disappointed to learn that the MTO will be unable to keep it active after the bridge is replaced. The report which provides detailed technical reasons will be posted at the Bay Lake signboard, but here is a recap of the main points:

- Drainage requirements for the replacement structure will affect the water table level and pressure, making it unlikely that the water will continue to flow to the area of the spring
- Given the new drainage system, water accumulating in the area of the spring will likely be from highway runoff rather than from the aquifer that currently supplies the water
- The spring water is not tested on a regular basis, nor has it been assessed for compliance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act of 2002*
- There are potential liability issues related to providing drinking water to the public from a location within a MTO right-of-way
- Parking on the narrow right-of-way could pose a hazard to road and spring users

We don't have details yet about timing for the bridge replacement.

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## BREAK-INS

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Thieves have been active over the winter, with a number of break-ins reported around the lake. Please inform the police if you notice any suspicious or illegal activities. Staff Sergeant Stacey Whaley is in charge at the Burks Falls attachment of the OPP.

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## SHARING YOUR COTTAGE

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An increasing number of the cottages around Bay Lake are being rented or loaned out and unfortunately there have been a number of complaints from neighbouring property owners about the behaviour of some of the guests. While we want everyone to enjoy their time at Bay Lake, we want people to recognize that there are different ideas of 'fun' (ranging from spending quiet time with nature to large gatherings of family and friends) and sometimes compromise is needed so that everyone enjoys their time at the lake. We also want people to act in such a way that does not endanger the safety of themselves or others.

Basically, the bottom line is **respect**. We would hope that guests treat their time here on Bay Lake with respect for neighbours, for the wildlife, and for the land, water and environment, and remember that this is a special, shared space.

### Boating

Everyone is required to follow all boating rules and water safety regulations. This includes honouring speed limits in channels and close to the shore.

If you have a jet ski, don't spend all your time driving it in one spot. Move to different locations around the lake after a few minutes in order to give neighbours a break from the noise.

Please discourage your guests from bringing wake boats onto the lake. Bay Lake is not well suited to wake boats and the wakes from these boats are destructive to shorelines, docks and wildlife.

### Camp Fires

If you want to have an open fire, you must get a fire permit. These are available at the "dump" on Hwy 592, or at Foodland Gas Bar.

### Fireworks

Perry Township bylaw #2013-35 prohibits setting off fireworks without a permit.

### Lake Water

Do not bathe or wash your hair – or your pets – in the lake. Even phosphorous-free soaps and shampoos are harmful!

### Lights

Many people enjoy watching the stars at night, but this can be impossible if bright lights are on. Turn off lights that aren't needed, and be sure to put all lights out when going to bed.

### Noise

You may not be aware of how easily sound carries across the water. That means that the music you are playing (and the things you're saying) can be heard not just by the people on either side of you, but by those across the lake. Be considerate and keep the volume down and speakers pointed away from the shore. Even better – keep the music inside the cottage.

And remember that neighbours may be the 'early to bed, early to rise' type, so dial down the music and voices at 11:00 pm, or move the party inside. Excessive noise is regulated at all times by the Perry Township noise bylaw #2006-03.

### Roadways

Don't speed! The speed limit around the lake is 40 km/hr.

Some people enjoy driving an ATV around...and around and around...the lake, unaware of the noise and dust they leave in their wake. Give others a break by limiting the number of times around.

Sharing this will help keep your renters, guests and neighbours happy...and help preserve Bay Lake for future generations to enjoy.

