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BAY LAKE
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A New Use for an Old Canoe	2
Annual General Meeting.....	2
Benthic Testing.....	4
Fires & Fireworks	3
Fun Day	2
Got a Problem?	2
Huntsville Hospital Petition.....	3
Keeping it Safe	
On and Around the Lake.....	4
Memorial for Harold Keeton.....	3
Pancake Breakfast	2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has arrived and your Association has been busy with our various seasonal activities.

Since delivering the letter regarding our plan to increase water testing on Bay Lake, we have received many questions. The overall question is "How can we help?" No doubt, "supporting your Association = protecting your investment" has hit home with some property owners. (One Clear Lake Board member suggested a decline of \$40,000 in cottage values after their blue-green algae growth last Fall.) We do not want to go down that road. I have kept close contact with the Clear Lake Association over the past year to share information on water testing and other common interests. It is of note that they now have 80% of property owners supporting their Association and attending their AGM, while Bay Lake has approximately 40% and 10%-15% attendance at our AGM). This is how you can help your Association:

Pay your dues - \$40 per year, of which \$10 is automatically transferred into the Environment Fund to help pay for water testing. Cheques can be mailed or payments made via Paypal through our website.

Join the Executive - Many of the current Executive members have been sitting on the committee for years and new blood is needed. About six meetings are held each year and a lot of our business can be conducted via email. Those who do not visit their properties in the winter can still play an active part - even from afar. Can a mere 7 Executive members do it alone? The answer is "no". We need your help.

Attend our AGM - By showing up at this meeting (Sunday, August 9) you are showing that you have an interest in the work that is happening on Bay Lake and supporting the people that make it happen.

That's it folks! I have a lot more to share, so read on for the rest of the news, reports, and warnings. Hope to see you all on August 9th

'Best, Sarah Adams

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our annual fund-raising event held on the May long weekend proved to be a resounding success again this year. Not only do we receive support from our Bay Lake property owners, but many Clear Lake residents and members of the community attend. This year, ticket sales increased significantly, so more griddles may be needed next year to keep up with the demand!

A huge "Thank You" is extended...

...To the 37 volunteers who helped with setting up, selling tickets, cooking, serving, clearing tables, etc. This was a wonderful response to the call for volunteers.

...To the many who contributed items for the Silent Auction. Items ranged from a custom "one-of" canvas print promoting Bay Lake to the ever-popular firewood and much sought after swim ladder.

...To our area businesses that year after year donate to the Silent Auction. We are happy to list these patrons on our web site.

Bruce Dow from Clear Lake won the door prize (local maple syrup kindly donated by the Wilkins - thanks!) and the 50/50 draw netted \$235 for Penny Pestill of North Bay Lake Road.

Definitely, a busy day for all involved, but most profitable for the Association.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th @ 9.00 AM
Clear Lake/Bay Lake Community Hall

Speaker: Rebecca Willison, Watershed Planning Technician at Muskoka Watershed Council, will provide food for thought on our lake and how to keep it healthy.

Mayor Norm Hofstetter will also attend to give an overview of Township of Perry business and answer questions.

A NEW USE FOR AN OLD CANOE

The David Suzuki Foundation is taking old canoes and making new, butterfly-friendly planters to be used in parks and schools this summer. They ask that you email them if you have an old canoe that can be re-purposed. One of our Bay Lake residents did and they quickly arrived to pick it up. It was a win-win situation as she'd been wondering how to get rid of it! Plus, she will be told where her canoe has been used as a planter. If you wish to participate, visit the David Suzuki Foundation at <http://www.davidsuzuki.org> and send them an email.

GOT A PROBLEM?

It is hoped that many of the problems people encounter at Bay Lake can be resolved by having a kind word. However, if you observe something dangerous, suspicious, or illegal at a cottage or on the lake, the Bay Lake Property Owners Association can direct you to the appropriate authority such as the Police, Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority or the Township of Perry.

General information and guidance can also be obtained by dialling 211, as outlined in the Spring Newsletter.

FUN DAY

Our Fun Day this year was more or less a non-event, as the number of helpers from our Executive out-numbered the children. We had a great bunch of counsellors from Winning Techniques lined up to conduct games and generally keep the children occupied but the numbers did not come. This may have been partly due to the fact that July 1st was mid-week, thus splitting the long-weekend for many. The Executive will need to re-think this event. If you have any ideas for a different summer family fun day, please let us know.

MEMORIAL FOR HAROLD KEETON

(submitted by Jan Keeton)

You are invited to attend a Memorial Reception for Harold Keeton of North Bay Lake Road, on Saturday, August 8, from 2-4 pm in the Kearney Community Centre. Harold passed away on November 18, 2014 in his 97th year.

Harold was an esteemed founding member and supporter of the Bay Lake Property Owners Association. He and his wife Flo loved Bay Lake. Flo enjoyed her daily swims and both were enthusiastic environmentalists, concerned about the health of the lake and its environs.

The couple retired to Bay Lake in 1979 from Hamilton. However, their commitment to Bay Lake goes back to just after the war, some 70 years ago, when Harold's father, Syd, built the family cottage. Back then, it was an all-day trip from Hamilton to Bay Lake, often taking over 10 hours. Yet they always thought it was worth it once they arrived with their children and friends in tow.

Summers involved picking wild blueberries, hiking in the woods, canoeing, and of course, swimming out to the raft with midnight swims "au naturale".

When Harold and Flo retired to the lake they were often visited by their grand-daughters who, if possible, loved Bay Lake even more than they did. Back then, the sun always shone, the lake was warm and homemade blueberry pies were oh so delicious.

The family would like to extend an invitation to all who knew Harold, even if only by reputation, to come and help us celebrate a life well-lived. An amazing individual with a strong commitment to social justice, peace and the environment.

FIRES & FIREWORKS

Fire permits are required during open fire season. These are free of charge and are available at the Recycling Centre or the Gas Bar at Foodland. This ensures that residents are kept abreast if a fire ban comes into effect.



Also of note, Township of Perry By-Law 2015-33 states that "no person shall set off any fireworks without first obtaining the express written permission of Council through the issuance of a Display Permit".

Visit the Township of Perry website <http://www.townshipofperry.ca> for some interesting reading of Township By-Laws.

HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL PETITION

The Township of Perry, in conjunction with the Town of Huntsville, is petitioning the Ontario Government for the retention of Acute Care Services at both the Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge. Those of us in the area are aware of the implications of closing the Huntsville Hospital or moving services further south to either Bracebridge or a new "super hospital" in between.

A link to the petition to keep Huntsville Hospital as an acute care facility can be found on our website's home page. You can print it off and add your signature (no email signatures or photocopies are accepted).

Signed petitions should be mailed to or dropped off at the Perry Township Municipal Offices (1695 Emsdale Road, PO Box 70, Emsdale ON P0A 1J0). Alternately, contact Bill Paterson (636-0568) as he has offered to pick them up.

KEEPING IT SAFE ON AND AROUND THE LAKE

Some things you have control over.... and some you don't!

ROADS: A speed limit of 40 kilometres per hour is in effect all year on our shoreline roads. Often, it is easier to keep to this speed under winter road conditions. In better weather, though, safety issues are a concern when speeders meet walkers, runners, cyclists, wild life, etc. Please note that Off- Road Vehicles are expected to adhere to a speed limit of 20k/hr on our 40k/hr roads.

LAKE: Please show respect for fellow lake users and exercise safe boating practices. Everyone has a right to be on or in the water. For safety, people swimming across bays or channels should try to be accompanied by a canoe, kayak or paddle boat for better visibility. A bright noodle is often not enough.

Recently, a speeding boat with a water skier in tow was seen on the lake. The driver was observed looking back at the skier. This is dangerous...a spotter is required and drivers need to look ahead.

The OPP has informed us that they will be visiting lakes over the summer to monitor violations on the water. All those operating a motorized water craft must hold a boating licence and life jackets must be on board. Last year, the OPP visited Bay Lake on a particularly low boating day but were able to hand out fines to persons operating a paddle boat because they did not have life jackets.

LIGHT POLLUTION: Many property owners enjoy observing the night sky, so please keep your outdoor lighting to a minimum. Also consider how your indoor lighting might be impacting your neighbours. Cottages with vaulted ceilings or large windows can have lights which shine brightly onto the lake after

dark. Properly aimed and shaded light fixtures will help inside and out. Again, it is all about being considerate.

WILDLIFE: You are in **bear** country! Bears can be dangerous. A huge bear was observed this Spring around the lake and now a Mama Bear with two baby bears have been spotted not far away. Any encounter with this family should be avoided. When walking, make noise, keep your eyes and ears open, don't wear headphones, and pay attention to your surroundings. Improper disposal of left-over food can attract a bear to your cottage, and it helps to clean your barbeque after the food is cooked. Other good advice can be found at www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/wildlife-and-nature.

At least one **beaver** has been seen out on evening swims, but it seems to have left the shoreline vegetation intact...so far.

The **heron, loons** and **mallards** are on the lake again. Observe, but do not feed the ducks as it can elevate the e-coli levels in the lake.

A **cougar** was spotted around Bay Lake in late winter/early spring. Watch your pets and remain alert when outdoors.



BENTHIC TESTING

This year's benthic testing was held at the Boat Ramp again, which will allow us to compare the results against the number and types of benthos found in the same area last year.

A big "thank you" to those members who came out and helped, along with Judy Dunn and Bill Paterson who have been seeing that this takes place for the past eight years. Our neighbours on Clear Lake will do their first Benthic Testing next month.