

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



Our Mission:

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

President's Message

The snow has finally melted and Spring is in the air. This is such a wonderful time of the year. Everything is coming back to life; daffodils popping up in the garden, pussy willows on the side of the road, robins singing, and the loons are calling. Welcome back everyone!

To kick-off the Season, your BLPOA Executive will be hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. Once again we will be serving pancakes, sausages and local maple syrup. Details below:

Sunday May 21st @ 9:00am-12pm

\$6.00 for Adults, \$4.00 kids aged 5-12, free for kids 4 and under

@ Clear Lake/Bay Lake Hall

Come out for a great breakfast, do some shopping, become a member and/or renew your membership.

This event is only successful because of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you in advance if you have signed-up again this year. We are also seeking new volunteers, therefore, if you would like to help out for a few hours please contact Gaynor Moore at gmoore0711@rogers.com and she will be happy to assign you a task.

We are always looking for suitable donations for our Silent Auction. If you wish to make a donation, you can drop them off at Pat Nimigeons or contact her at bpnimigeon@hotmail.com.

We have a great Community, so come and support it and your Association.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Sherry Vey

President, BLPOA

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Membership

The Pancake Breakfast is an excellent time to renew your membership, rejuvenate those that have lapsed, and we welcome all new members.

This year, with each renewal, you will receive a 2017/2018 sticker which is applied to your appreciation plaque, and your membership card is receipt of payment.

We will also be selling the laminated placemats again, which show the water depths throughout the lake at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Mark your calendars and please come out and join us for delicious pancakes/ local maple syrup on Sunday May 21st.

If you are unable to attend, membership payments can be made via paypal through the website @ www.baylakeontario.ca or by cheque mailed to:

BLPOA P.O Box 120 Novar ON PoA 1R0



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Spring Clean-Up Burning

As the snow melts from our properties, we sometimes find debris that has been “out of sight and out of mind” for many months. If you plan to do some burning, please remember that Perry Township has specific Burning Bylaw Regulations. Approval is required for large fires. There is no daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st.

Certain materials cannot be burned. These include painted and chemically treated wood, yard waste, garbage and household waste. As well, fires must be supervised and under control until they are extinguished.

For complete and specific details about burning, please consult information provided by Perry Township.

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Large Turtle basking in the bay of Bay Lake
Photo provided by Judy Dunn

Government of Ontario Gives Beleaguered Snapping Turtles a Reprieve

Effective April 1st, 2017 snapping turtles will no longer be legal to hunt in Ontario. Biologists, naturalists and concerned turtle lovers have been lobbying the government for years to change the law that permitted hunting of Snapping Turtles. Most people probably weren't even aware that you could hunt this turtle. Especially given that 7 of the 8 native turtles we are lucky to have in Ontario are at risk and populations are quickly disappearing.

Why is the Snapping Turtle at Risk?

Snapping turtles mature very slowly. A female turtle will not be mature enough to reproduce and lay eggs until she is 15-20 years old. As a female egg layer matures she is able to lay more eggs, as many as 100. We see these female turtles in the spring risking their lives to cross roads to find the best place to lay their eggs. Many will not make it across. Most turtles killed on roads are females which drastically reduces reproduction rates. Strangely, some drivers actually target turtles. We always carry a plastic shovel in our car at this time of the year so that if we see a turtle risking traffic we can help her across in the direction she was going by sliding her over on the shovel. Female turtles also come out of our lake looking for freshly disturbed ground – it is almost like they have a sixth sense that tells them a new septic bed has gone in and the digging will be easy. Once the eggs have been laid and the nest covered up, it will take 75-125 days for the little turtles to hatch and emerge. All during this time, the soft eggs are at risk from foxes, raccoons, skunks and even snakes. Biologists believe that only “seven of every 10,000 snapping turtle eggs laid will live to adulthood”.

The Snapping Turtle is also persecuted because of fear. The Snapper gets its name because of its defense. This turtle is the only turtle that is unable to protect itself on land by pulling its head and legs into its shell. So when approached or harried by humans or pets, it snaps to protect itself. If left alone, they are not aggressive. They are not known to attack swimmers. In water the snapping turtle rarely snaps at people or other potential threats and will simply swim away if threatened.

Why Are Snapping Turtles Important to Our Lake?

Biodiversity is important to the environment and Snapping Turtles are a natural part of our lake environment. They are omnivores and feed on various aquatic plants, invertebrates, small fish, frogs and very small ducklings. We saw one clean up fish remains thrown into the lake by a fisherman who had cleaned his catch on a neighbouring dock. But most importantly 90 percent of their diet consists of dead animal and plant matter collecting on the bottom of the lake. This turtle plays an important role in keeping our lake and wetlands clean.

Biologists in Algonquin Park began tagging Snapping Turtles in 1972 and were surprised to learn how long these turtles live. Estimates now based on their *long-term* mark-recapture data suggest turtles could reach a maximum age over 100 years. So when we see a large Snapper it could have been in our lake long before many of us were born. They belong here. -Article Written by Janice Paterson

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Spring Boating

The ice is off the lake and boats are gradually coming out of storage. What fun it is to think about that first “zip” around the lake. But first... find the Pleasure Craft Operator Card, dust off the lifejackets, and make sure all necessary safety equipment is ready and in good working order. Also, be aware of floating debris left over from the winter. As well, some of the Javex bottles and other markers may have gone missing in the moving ice, so give the shoreline a wide berth until people have had a chance to replace them. Lastly, before launching, make sure the drainage plug has been replaced.

BE SAFE! HAVE FUN!

Love And Respect Your Lake

Your Bay Lake Property Owners Association has put together a list of “gentle reminders” which will help us all protect and enjoy our Bay Lake Community. This quick reference fridge magnet will be available, free of charge to Bay Lake properties, at the Pancake Breakfast. It is our goal to have one on every fridge on Bay Lake. Hopefully, non-members will see the value of this handy information and recognize the important work your Association does in keeping Bay Lake a healthy and happy place to live and play. Remember, more detailed information can always be found in our Welcome Package, Newsletters and on our Website.

--Photos taken around Bay Lake by property owner, John Meyer--

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Pitch-In Day- 2017!

Sunday April 23rd was a warm, sunny spring day to enjoy the 50th anniversary of Pitch-In Day in Canada. About 23 dedicated volunteers, including 17 adults and 6 children, spent the morning cleaning up around the lake and neighbouring roads. They collected 6 full bags of recyclable cans & plastics, 2 full bags of recyclable paper & cardboard, 2 large bags of garbage and an assortment of larger pieces of metal, plastic, wood and hypodermic needles. Another 2 full bags of beer, wine and liquor bottles and cans were donated to the Lions Club.

Many thanks to Bill Paterson for organizing another great event and to all the dedicated volunteers who helped to keep our lake clean and who will enjoy a Pancake Breakfast next month with compliments of the Bay Lake Property Owners Association.

