

VOTE

Lake of Bays
ASSOCIATION

current connection

THE LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOL. 29, NO. 2 SUMMER ISSUE 2018

The purpose of the Lake of Bays Association is to promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well-serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays.

HAVE YOUR SAY! MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2018



Frequently Asked Questions

Q *Can I vote if I'm a seasonal resident?*

A YES! If you meet the criteria below, you are eligible to vote. You can vote in both your permanent and seasonal residence municipalities. A person is entitled to be an elector at an election held in a local municipality (unless prohibited by the Municipal Elections Act or any other Act) if, on **Voting Day, Monday, October 22, 2018** he or she:

- ✓ is a Canadian citizen
- ✓ is at least eighteen (18) years of age
- ✓ resides in the Township of Lake of Bays; or is the owner or tenant of land in the Township of Lake of Bays, or a spouse or same-sex partner of such a person

Q *How do I vote?*

A New for the 2018 Municipal Elections, you will be able to vote by Internet and Telephone. That means, if you are a seasonal resident, you do not need to make a special trip to the cottage to vote. Internet and Telephone Voting will start on **October 12** and go through to **October 22, 2018**. Anyone requiring assistance or without an internet connection can go to the township office (1012 Dwight Beach Road, Dwight) during regular office hours from **October 12 to 22** to get help and to vote.

Make sure you are on the Voters List by going to voterlookup.ca or calling 1-866-296-6722. You will need your property tax Roll Number from your Muskoka tax bill to be able to confirm both your own and your spouse's voter registration status. If your name does not appear on your Muskoka tax bill or you rent a property as your year-round residence in Lake of Bays, call MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 to get registered.

Prior to the voting period, you will receive a personalized Voters Information Letter by mail which will include your PIN and directions to the voting website and telephone number.

STAY INFORMED

LOBA will be setting up an Election Section on our website to provide information on the candidates. We will be asking candidates to answer questions and will post their responses as well as links to their websites. We are also co-hosting two candidates meetings in Baysville, **Saturday August 25** and Dwight **Thursday August 30**, with the Chamber of Commerce—plan to attend one or both. This is a great opportunity to meet the candidates in person and hear what they have to say about the issues that impact your Lake of Bays community.



KEY DATES

Nomination Period:
Thurs. May 1 to Thurs. July 27

Voting Period:
Fri. Oct. 12 to Mon. Oct. 22

Voting Day:
Mon. Oct. 22

Candidates Meetings:
Baysville Community Centre
Sat. Aug. 25, 9am to noon,
Dwight Community Centre
Thurs. Aug. 30, 6 to 9 pm,



Continued next page

Continued from *Municipal Elections 2018*

Q Why should I vote?

A Local Councillors have three main roles—as representatives of their constituents, as policy-makers to provide direction for municipal operations, and as stewards to ensure that the municipality’s financial and administrative resources are being used as efficiently as possible. Approximately 26% of your property taxes go to the Township of Lake of Bays, 48% to the District of Muskoka and 26% to Education. The diagram below shows the myriad of programs and services your local tax dollars support. By voting, you help to ensure our representatives, policy-makers and stewards are the best for the job.

Given the great deal of responsibility entrusted to local Councils and Councillors it is surprising and disappointing that voter turnout for municipal elections is traditionally very low. In the 2014 municipal elections, voter turnout in Ontario was 43%. In the Township of Lake of Bays, 40% of 7963 registered voters cast their ballot with 55% participation by the 2200 permanent resident voters, and a rather dismal 34% participation by the 5763 seasonal resident voters. Surely we can do better in 2018!

Q Who am I voting for?

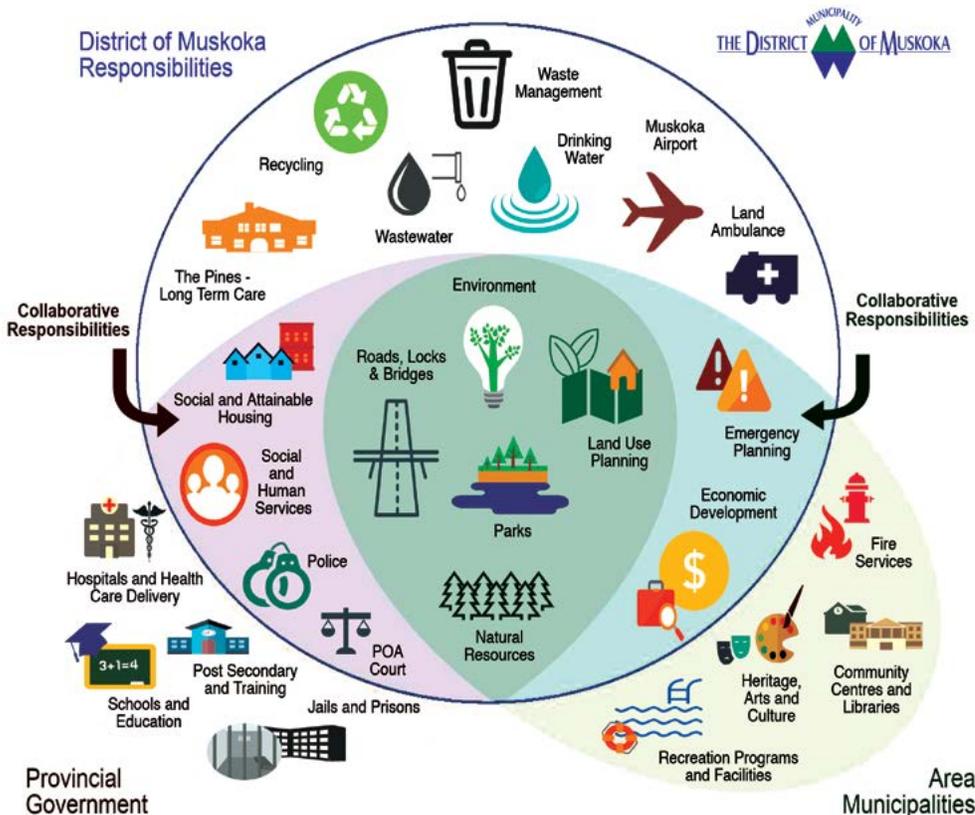
A The Township of Lake of Bays is part of a two-tier municipality where the Township and District of Muskoka provide different and complementary services. As such you vote for both Township Councillors, and representatives for the District of Muskoka Council. For the first time in 2018, you will also be voting for the Chair of District Council—previously this was an appointed position. Here are the positions you will be voting for:

- ✓ 1 Mayor/District Councillor
- ✓ 4 Ward Councillors in Franklin, Sinclair, Ridout and McLean wards
- ✓ 2 District and Ward Councillors in Franklin/Sinclair, and Ridout /McLean wards
- ✓ 4 School Trustees
- ✓ 1 District Chair

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, the nomination period is from **May 1 to July 27, 2018**, and you can find information on the Township of Lake of Bays website lakeofbays.on.ca 

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The distribution of your tax dollars



Dorset Lions Club Centennial Park update

The Dorset Lions Club undertook an ambitious Legacy Project last year to re-purpose the old ball diamond on Main Street (beside Fire hall) into an active living park. Phase I of the project included infrastructure upgrades to the parking lot, a new entrance feature to the park, landscaping, and a walkway system that incorporates a wilderness trail around the ice rink. This year (Phase II) will include the installation of solar park lights along the walkway, signage, new picnic tables, and an outdoor fitness station suitable for teens to seniors. All of these improvements by the Lions Club would not be possible without the generous support of residents giving their empties to the Bottle Drop Program including the LOB: Ridout Transfer facility on Hwy 35. Last year the Dorset Lions Club sorted and recycled over 160,000 wine, liquor, and beer cans that were diverted from the waste stream while 100% of the revenue generated goes back into the community. Now that is a win-win scenario.

You can also support the Dorset Lions Club in other ways:

.....
Purchase lottery tickets for the \$1,000 draw—available in front of Robinson’s General Store on weekends during the summer.
.....

Attend the Rib Dinner
Sat. July 21, 6 p.m. at the Rec Centre.
.....

Buy homemade pies and treats at the Bake Sale Sun. Aug. 5 in the Dorset Parkette.
.....

Participate in the Family Fish Derby Sat. Sept. 1, or just come to the Roast Beef dinner at the Rec Hall (6 p.m.).

PARTING WORDS



Ian Beverley
LOBA PRESIDENT

Well, it has been a lot of fun! This is my last article to LOBA members as President and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity these last four years. I have had the privilege of working with a great team on our Board, supported by volunteers acting in numerous capacities—area stewards, water-quality testing, communications, to name only a few—and in engaging in a wide range of important issues.

In case anyone needs reminding, LOBA's stated purpose is "to promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays". What a beautifully simple and elegant statement of our goals and aspirations.

From the times when our First Nations made use of Lake of Bays and the surrounding area to today, Lake of Bays and Muskoka has attracted man for recreation. In earlier days, our area was a route for First Nations people on their way to Algonquin Park for hunting and fishing. Today, we celebrate its majestic beauty for tourism and recreation. The key draw throughout all of man's habitation of the area has been the natural environment and all the benefits that it has to offer.

But the natural environment that we enjoy—the trees, water, natural landscapes and peaceful rural countryside—can never be taken for granted. It isn't a "given" that Lake of Bays—Muskoka—will always provide the sort of character that we cherish. It can be spoiled by unwise local and district planning policies and decisions, and we have seen evidence of this in recent years. Bruce MacLellan, one of our directors, past President of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation and current President of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, cautions that Lake of Bays, like some other cottage areas, can suffer a slow "death by a thousand cuts"—seemingly benign development decisions that individually may appear immaterial, but in aggregate can have a profound impact on the quality of our surrounding environment.

Because of the devolution of power to local municipalities in planning decisions due to recent changes to the Planning Act, it is more important than ever that those in elected office share, or at least respect, the values that LOBA and its members know are important.

LOBA has spoken out in recent years on a number of decisions that we felt were unwise: we were against the Township's decision to permit ATVs on many Township roads; we appealed the reduction of backlot standards in the Township Official Plan to the OMB; we share the concerns of the Wahawin group about the inappropriateness of commercial zoning for a residential property on Fairview Island; and presently we are working with the Lake of

Bays Heritage Foundation to assess the development proposal for Langmaid's Island.

And these are only the planning activities LOBA has been involved in. LOBA has set the standard for water-quality testing in Muskoka and in fact pioneered the current program that has been adopted by others. We have been active at both Township and District Councils in reviewing budgets to ensure that our tax dollars are spent prudently. We also partner with the Muskoka Watershed Council on important issues such as algae in our lakes. And we have been encouraging both the Township and the District to take action on invasive plant species that are emerging in the area.

If you are reading this article, you are likely a LOBA member. If you are not, please join us. Tell your friends and neighbors who are not members, all that LOBA does. We need their support as well as yours.

And a final word about the upcoming municipal elections. Leadership matters. Please listen carefully to the platforms of the candidates in our upcoming District and Township elections. Because of the devolution of power to local municipalities in planning decisions due to recent changes to the Planning Act, it is more important than ever that those in elected office share, or at least respect, the values that LOBA and its members know are important.

Above all else, vote in the upcoming municipal election. And after you vote, please volunteer to support us. There is a world of interesting and exciting things to get involved in at LOBA.

Thank you for your support. It has been a privilege to serve as your President. 

The Board of Directors would like to thank Ian for his four years of hard work and dedication. We will miss his calm, insightful leadership.

EXPLORING LIFE

Above and Below the Water

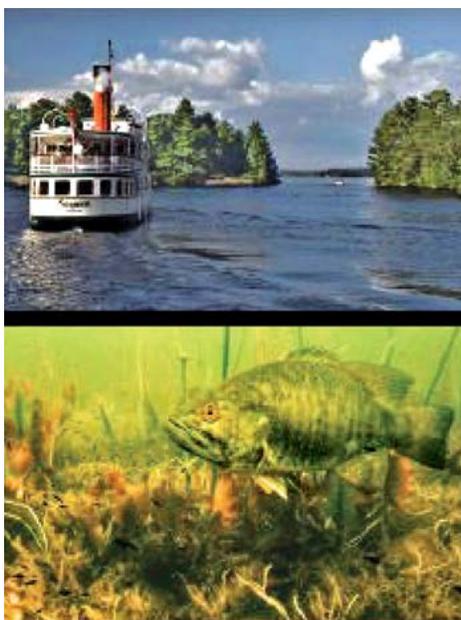
This innovative and dynamic exhibit will provide a virtual, interactive journey through the Muskoka Watershed, exploring life above and below the water surface. Visitors will discover how the watershed works and how it has shaped our heritage, economy—and our hearts. Learn how research conducted on the Muskoka Watershed has been used around the world to improve the water quality of freshwater lakes. The exhibit tells a local story with international implications.

[Muskoka Steamships and Discovery Centre](#) (MS&DC) has partnered with local experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, District of Muskoka/Muskoka Watershed Council and Friends of the Muskoka Watershed, to develop content that explores key physical and biological elements of the watershed. The exhibit itself is being designed and fabricated by Canadian companies with international reputations and experience, Simbioz, Expographiq, and Reich and Petch. It is the first, new, permanent exhibit in the Discovery Centre since 2006.

Five distinct stories are told through text, images and hands-on technology:

- **Water Cycles** show how forests, lakes, shorelines and wetlands are the interconnected component parts of the watershed.
- **Biodiversity** is featured as the centrepiece of the exhibit, focusing on nature above and below the surface of the water.
- **Nature Challenged** explores the risks facing watershed species.

WATERSHED WONDERS Opening July 2018 at Muskoka Discovery Centre in Gravenhurst



- **Humans!** is all about us, detailing how the watershed has been the foundation of our economy for over a century and a half. Stories touch on the impact of our actions, both good and bad.

- In **Stewardship and Sustainability** visitors learn how to be stewards and the work being done by so many to ensure the watershed's continued good health.

An amazing feature is the interactive virtual aquarium. The 96-inch touchscreen vividly portrays life below the surface. Without water or live fish, the aquarium delivers an incredibly real underwater view, courtesy of software. Visitors can touch one of the fish swimming by, activating a text screen describing the fish and its place in the watershed.

The central hub of the exhibit, called Biodiversity, will be a three-dimensional polygon topped by a boulder of Muskoka granite. A birch tree and unique 3D casts of animal species native to Muskoka will inhabit the boulder, depicting life at the water's edge.

Financial resources are provided by: FedNor, the District of Muskoka, Muskoka Steamships & Discovery Centre, private donations and \$50,000 from the McGraw family. A Great Blue Heron sculpture has been sponsored by the Sandy McNair Family. Despite these generous donations, more funds are needed. Any donation over \$10 will be acknowledged with a charitable tax receipt. To donate visit realmuskoka.com/donations or send a cheque payable to Muskoka Steamship & Historical Society, 185 Cherokee Lane, Gravenhurst ON, P1P 1Z9.

THE MUSKOKA STEAMSHIPS & DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Muskoka Steamships & Discovery Centre (MS&DC) is a not-for-profit, community-minded organization serving the Muskoka region. MS&DC owns and operates RMS Segwun and Wenonah II for public cruising and charters on Lakes Muskoka, Rousseau and Joseph from May through October. They also operate the Muskoka Discovery Centre on a year-round basis with exciting interactive displays that cel-

brate the history and culture of Muskoka for the entertainment and education of all age groups.

The Muskoka Discovery Centre is a key-stone facility that anchors Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst at 275 Steamship Bay Road. Vital to the economic health of greater Muskoka District, the facility has evolved from a boat and heritage museum to what Muskoka teachers have called a beacon of Science,

Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) education for the community. The Discovery Centre offers more than 50 curriculum-based education programs that are delivered in the facility or in classrooms throughout the District.

Over 35,000 people visit the Discovery Centre annually. 

KEEPING alien invaders OUT OF THE LAKE

By Caroline Konarzewski

Okay, so there's no real proof that there are aliens visiting us from outer space, however there are definitely some invading from places much closer to home! I'm talking about alien plants, animals, fish and pathogens and we need to have plans to keep them out.

In addition to finding, identifying and reporting invasive plants, the LOBA Invasive Species Team (LIST) is broadening its focus to include aquatic invasive species. Many lakes in and around Muskoka, including ours, are known to have aquatic invasives—the Spiny Waterflea has been introduced to Lake of Bays. When you take your boat from lake-to-lake, you can inadvertently pick up and transfer alien fish, plant and pathogen “stowaways” in your bilge, on your anchor or propeller, and on your fishing equipment and boat trailer. Those aliens can eat up, contaminate and destroy our native plants, small critters, fish and amphibians; irreversibly changing and damaging our beautiful Lake of Bays.

We're not suggesting you stop exploring other lakes, but there are a few precautions worth taking:

- ✓ Drain the bilge and livewell close to the lake you were exploring.
- ✓ Empty unused bait at least 30 m away from any lake.
- ✓ Clean your boat before launching into Lake of Bays, or any other lake. Include the propeller, the anchor, the hull, the trailer and your fishing equipment.
- ✓ Dry your boat for 2 to 5 days or disinfect it with hot water or with a pressure washer. This goes for canoes and kayaks too!

Thanks to the [Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations](#) (FOCA), LOBA received signs to remind boat users to “Clean + Drain + Dry” their boats. LOBA is purchasing posts and the Township of Lake of Bays has generously agreed to install the posts and signs at each of

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



fishing equipment live-wells bilge motor prop wheel well safe hull bucket anchor trailer rollers hull deck lines

Motors, boats, and Ontario's ecosystems can be ruined by zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Take a few simple steps to preserve our lakes and fisheries: **CLEAN** off any plants or debris, **DRAIN** bilges and ballast water, and **DRY** any wet areas of your boat.



ZEBRA MUSSELS



3.0 cm

ROUND GOBY



6 - 10 cm

ERASIAN WATERMILFOL



DON'T LET THEM CATCH A RIDE
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:
1-800-563-7711
www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario






the six public, Lake of Bays boat launches in the Township—thank you staff and councillors! We're working to make sure the signs are also posted at the Huntsville and Haliburton public launches, and we've made them available to all the marinas on the lake. Other lake associations in the Township have expressed interest in installing the signs at their boat launches too. Working together, we're going to get the “Clean + Drain + Dry” message out—and keep the aliens away! 



He's off and swimming!

Remember in our last Current Connection, we let you know about Glenn Vickery's plans to circumnavigate Lake of Bays—in a bathing suit (or given the cold temperatures right now, in a wetsuit) to raise awareness about natural shorelines and water quality? Well by the time you read this he will be on his way. Starting **Saturday May 19**, the plan is to swim South Portage to Baysville in five or six stages; Baysville to Dorset in five stages with an organized swim around Little Trading Bay on **Canada Day, Sunday July 1**; Dorset to Dwight Beach in nine stages arriving in Dwight on **Sunday July 29**; and from there the home stretch from Dwight Beach to Rat Bay and then to the finish at South Portage. **WOW!**

Captain Bruce of Lake of Bays Tours has designed and ordered t-shirts for the swim which will sell for \$20 – all proceeds to local charities. We will keep you posted on his progress in our Newsflashes and you can also follow the swim on [instagram.com/glenn.vickery/](https://www.instagram.com/glenn.vickery/) 





photo: Jacquie Godard

UPDATE Langmaids Island

Why is the development of Langmaid's Island of interest to the public? By Wendy Gibson

Except for a cluster of cabins and a boathouse, the 147-acre island has remained largely undeveloped during the last 80 years of ownership by the Adamson family. The pristine natural beauty of the island's forest, shoreline, sandy beaches, steep rock ridges and exposed cliffs makes it stand out as a landmark on Lake of Bays. It was the quality of the island's undisturbed landscape, shoreline and biotic communities that led to the island's designation as a Muskoka Heritage Area in the 1990s, and its recognition as a Heritage Area within the Lake of Bays Official Plan. While the policies that apply to the island are protective and discourage development beyond the current building envelope, policy direction is provided for the consideration of limited development provided the natural heritage values are identified and protected. How this development proposal is measured against the land use policies in our official plans (both district and municipal) is of interest to the entire Lake of Bays community. Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of our elected representatives to decide whether the development proposed for Langmaid's Island is appropriate and supported by planning policy. The public needs to know that the community's values and priorities are represented in these decisions.

Public engagement on this issue has been encouraging.

The island's new owners, Langmaid's Island Corp., appear to understand that this development proposal is sensitive and requires public engagement. They hosted a stakeholders meeting in October 2017 to solicit input from politicians and public agencies, including the Lake of Bays Association, the Lake of

Bays Heritage Foundation and the Muskoka Conservancy. They also hosted a public information open house in December 2017 that was well attended, and at the time of writing, a second public open house has been scheduled for **May 26**. The public has been invited to look at their plans and provide input to the owners on their website langmaidsisland.com. This type of outreach is unusual for a development application and the opportunity for the public to learn about the proposal has been helpful and appreciated.

A plan that divides the entire island into 36 residential lots without an appropriate plan for significant land conservation falls short of the intent of heritage area policies.

A joint committee of LOBA and LBHF has been actively monitoring the Langmaid's Island development application process since October 2017.

Both organizations have submitted preliminary comments and our letters can be viewed at loba.ca. Our primary concern is that the scale and cumulative impact of the proposed development will not ensure protection of the values for which Langmaid's Island is recognized in the Lake of Bays Official Plan. A plan that divides the entire island into 36 residential lots without an appropriate plan for significant land conservation falls

short of the intent of heritage area policies. We also have concerns about the impact of increased boat traffic in the narrows (between the mainland and the island), which is designated as a narrow water body and is the location of Type 1 Fish Habitat. Additionally, there are considerable building constraints, particularly related to steep slopes, which have not been adequately addressed in the proposed lot configuration. Storm water management, construction mitigation and loss of tree canopy for the building envelopes and tile fields on some of the steeply sloped lots are of concern.

Due to the complex nature of this development application, LOBA and LBHF jointly engaged an independent planner to initially provide a professional planning opinion on the applications and then to assist us in preparing our comments for the Statutory Public Meeting on June 2. We remain optimistic that through open dialogue with the developers, a plan that lives more lightly on the land and water can be achieved.

It is not too late to provide input.

No decisions have been made. Following the **Statutory Public Meeting on June 2**, planning staff will have initiated their analysis of the applications and then advise the public of how and when the report(s) with recommendations will be brought forward for discussion by the various councils. The Township of Lake of Bays will decide on amendments to the Official Plan and Development Permit By-law for the island. The Town of Huntsville will decide on two Zoning By-law amendments for the mainland properties that provide access to the island. The District of Muskoka will decide on the Plan of Subdivision and also has final approval authority over any official plan amend-

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION

photo contest

Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and families for submission in the following categories.

LIFE at the LAKE:
people, pets and dwellings

NATURE:
wild plants and animals

LANDSCAPE:
land, water, and sky

Photos must be previously unpublished and submitted—one per individual, per category—in digital format to *Aben Graphics: info@abengraphics.com* before ***DECEMBER 31, 2018**. Subject line of email, *Lake of Bays Photo Contest*. Contestants agree to the use of their photos for the Lake of Bays Association yearbook, newsletter, website and social media sites.

TAKE NOTICE

Annual General Meeting

Take notice that the annual and special meeting of members of the Lake of Bays Association will be held at the Baysville Community Centre

Saturday July 7, 2018 at 9:30 am in order to:

- Receive the annual report, the financial statements and the auditor's report
- Elect directors
- Appoint the auditor and authorize the directors to fix the remuneration
- Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting, and financial statements for year ending October 31, 2017 are available on the website at www.loba.ca.

login to what's on

There is so much going on around the lake over the summer months, it's impossible to list it all here. Check out the Events tab of the LOBA website loba.ca and join our Facebook page facebook.com/lobaontario for up-to-date information. You can also find information on the Tourism tab of the Township of Lake of Bays website lakeofbays.on.ca and check out the Around Lake of Bays website aroundlakeofbays.ca. Luxury Lake of Bays luxurylakeofbays.ca also has information. 

Question: *Where can you find fresh produce every day of the week in Muskoka Cottage Country?*

Answer: *Shopping at a local farmers' market is a part of the Muskoka lifestyle. Being able to shop the local merchants selling homemade goods, locally sourced foods, local art and other hidden gems has long been a tradition among locals and visitors. There are nine in total, each one a little different than the last.* 

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Bala June 25 to Sept. 3 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jaspen Park, on Muskoka Road 38 just off Hwy. 169</p>	<p>Dwight June 26 to Aug. 28 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1009 Dwight Bay Rd. the old Township Building site</p>	<p>Gravenhurst May 16 to Oct. 31 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Muskoka Wharf Special Events field</p>	<p>Huntsville May 17 to Oct 4 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Canadian Tire parking lot</p>	<p>Baysville June 29 to Aug. 31 2 to 6 p.m. Baysville Country Store 2611 Muskoka Rd. 117</p>	<p>Bracebridge May 19 to Oct. 6 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memorial Park</p>
			<p>Port Carling June 28 to Aug. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hanna Park</p>	<p>Rosseau June 29 to Aug. 31 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Waterfront Lake Rosseau End of Short St.</p>	<p>Huntsville 100km Market June 16 to Sept. 15 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Downtown Huntsville</p>

Langmaids Island update...continued from page 6

ments. A subdivision of this size on Lake of Bays that involves the District and two municipalities is unprecedented, so it is difficult to predict the schedule of debate and decision making, but LOBA will keep our members updated through our electronic newflashes and on our website, where you will find links to the development applications along with LOBA's and LBHF's responses. It should be noted that letters of input may be submitted at any time up until a final decision is made. If you have questions, please email executive-coord@loba.ca.

All residents are encouraged to contact their representative on District and Municipal Council to share your views and to find out the position of your elected official on this and any other issue that is important to you. Municipal elections will take place on **October 22, 2018** and you will want to be sure to vote for someone who shares your values and represents your interests. **CC**



CURRENT CONNECTION is published periodically by The Lake of Bays Association for the information of its members. Suggestions, inquiries, manuscripts, photos, etc. can be sent to: Lake of Bays Association P.O. Box 8, Baysville ON P0B 1A0 ■ Phone: 705-767-3395 Fax: 705-767-1044 ■ info@loba.ca ■ www.loba.ca ■ www.facebook.com/lobaontario/



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