

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

Gaylen Racine

Winner of the Betty Day Award

“Lake of Bays is safer and quieter because of the work of Gaylen Racine,” proclaimed the Association’s External Affairs Chair Gloria Woodside when she presented the 2011 Betty Day Award to Gaylen Racine at the Association’s AGM held in Dwight on July 23rd.

The prestigious Betty Day award was created in memory of Betty Day who was president of the Lake of Bays Association from 1990 until her sudden death from cancer in 1992. The Betty Day award has been presented annually since 1994 to a member of the Association who has made an extraordinary effort in performing volunteer activities that further the goals of the Association.

This year’s Betty Day Award recipient meets and exceeds the criteria. Gaylen joined the Lake of Bays Association Board of Directors in 2001. From 2002 until 2008 he served as a director and chair of the

Safety Committee. Through Gaylen’s involvement as a member of the Canadian Marine Advisory Council he established several safety and education programs for boaters.

In her presentation Gloria described Gaylen as “a creative but practical person who sets goals and meets them.” In 2004 on his initiative, a membership survey on boating was conducted that resulted in the brochure “Boat Right. Be Polite!” and an awareness campaign. The brochure is still in use today (visit www.loba.ca and click on “Safety” and “Read More”) and has been adopted by many other lake associations seeking to educate the public about boating safety and etiquette. A brochure on responsible wakeboarding followed (also on our website). It was also Gaylen’s idea to offer safe boating courses at the lake, a program that has since become the Youth on Board Safe Boating Course that



was offered in cooperation with Boat Smart Canada last summer.

Gaylen has always been a champion of quiet boating. His belief that it’s easier for

continued on page 3



Past Betty Day Award recipients joined Gaylen Racine for this photo op at the AGM. Left to right: John Kenny (1995), Margaret Casey (1994—back row), Connie Briant (1995), Gaylen Racine (2011), Gloria Woodside (2010), Deb Cumming (2007), David Johnston (2002), Fraser Govan (1998), Peter Goering (1999).

IN THIS ISSUE:

President’s Message	2
2011–2012 Board of Directors	3
Re-Greening Dwight Beach: A Story with a VERY happy ending	4
Hands-on Boating Course for Kids a Big Hit	6
Stewardship Guide Series	6
Memories of Glenmount DVD	7
Lake of Bays Photo Contest	8

President's Message

By Betty McDonald, President, Lake of Bays Association

Summer 2011's weather was perfect. My first year as President has passed quickly and it's been an unusually busy time for the Lake of Bays Association.

This year's well-attended Annual General Meeting was held on July 23 at the Dwight Community Centre. Robin Tapley's witty and informative presentation, "Walk on the Wild Side," kept everyone entertained. Like a magician, Robin opened his chest and pulled out the pelts of a black bear, a skunk, a fisher, muskrat and beaver and told many real life stories.

The 2011–2012 Board of Directors was elected at the AGM and I wish to welcome four new board members—Linda Robinson, David Lennard, Gundy Upans, and Jim Metcalfe. I want to thank the retiring directors Malcolm Burwash, Andrea Duncan, Cliff Hatch, Marnie Wraith, and Les Dakens for their dedicated commitment.

Planning and development are of constant concern to the Association. We conscientiously monitor development applications that may have a lake-wide impact and which may present environmental concerns, particularly to watershed

health. This summer, the Association was alarmed by a proposal to sever waterfront lots for development at the mouth of the Oxtongue River on land zoned for environmental protection and identified as a Muskoka Heritage Area. There has been

considerable public opposition to this proposal. The Oxtongue River is one of the greatest natural wonders on Lake of Bays, an oasis of majestic beauty, a rich habitat for wildlife based on a preserve of unspoiled wetlands and unique forests, that is largely undisturbed by development. The area at the mouth of the Oxtongue River is designated as Type 1 Fish Habitat and some of the tributary creeks feeding into the river are zoned for environmental protection because they

are important breeding areas for trout and yellow perch.

The Township has deferred making a decision on the Oxtongue River application until December 15th pending receipt of supplementary information from the applicant, including environmental impact and archaeological studies.

Another application for re-zoning on property bordering Wadis Creek in White House Bay met opposition from the neighbouring community. This property borders on Wadis Creek (which is zoned for Environmental Protection and is a Type 1 Fish Habitat), fronts on Lake of Bays and is backed by a wetland identified as a Muskoka Heritage Area. Concerned that granting the variances would compromise the wetland, the local community and the Association objected to the Town of Huntsville. In August the town deferred the application pending completion of an independent Environmental Impact Study.

Development pressures continue to challenge the Official Plan policies intended to protect natural habitats that are home to our fish, amphibians, and loons. Both the Association and the Lake of Bays

"We must continue to appreciate the balance between land, resources and people and be aware of the impact of changes. In the end we are not the owners of our world and its precious resources; we are merely borrowing from future generations."
(Take the Plunge: FOCA p.94).

Heritage Foundation were actively involved in these two files. The Association believes that where sensitive lands have been zoned for environmental protection, designated for heritage protection, or both, all relevant studies must be completed to the satisfaction of

the respective planning department before planning applications are accepted. This approach would ensure the integrity of the Muskoka and Township Official Plans. We will keep you informed as to the outcome of these two applications.

The Association has an ongoing concern with the Township's ability to monitor compliance with the Development Permit Bylaw. To date, the Township has only inspected completed projects for compliance when a complaint was lodged.



A highlight of my Association activities this summer was planting a Sugar Maple with Peter Budwall of BarK Ecological Garden Nursery for the Dwight Beach Re-greening Project. As I drove by the beach in late September the rusty leaves of the tree gently fell to the ground reminding me of its new presence and nature's unwavering schedule.

Although a proposal to conduct a review of the permissions granted over the last two years to confirm the degree of compliance has been acknowledged as an important initiative, no budget or human resources have been allocated to the project. We would prefer to see enforcement of the Development Permit Bylaw shift from a reactive to a proactive process.

As the Association enters its 86th year, we will take every opportunity to share information with property owners and to raise awareness of the impact and significance of our action, or inaction, on the lake. The small choices we make in daily living can have a big impact on the health of the shoreline.

Betty McDonald

2011–12 Board of Directors

Thank you to the following volunteers who have agreed to serve on the Lake of Bays Association Board of Directors for 2011–2012.

Betty McDonald	President
Kathleen Black	Treasurer
Brian Simpson	Planning Co-chair
Barry Morrison	Planning Co-chair
Deb Cumming	Environment Chair
Josee Hammill	Communications Chair
Ian White	Membership Co-chair
Gloria Woodside	External Affairs Chair
Mary Neal	Past President & Nominations Chair
Barry Johnson	Safety Chair
Andy Barnett	Nominations & Environment Committee
Fraser Govan	External Affairs Committee
David Lennard	Membership Committee
Jim Metcalfe	Area Steward
Linda Robinson	Area Steward
Gundy Upans	Communications Committee

Contact information for our Executive Committee is published on our website www.loba.ca. Your enquiries may also be directed to a staff member who will direct you to the appropriate person.

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Executive Coordinator
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Brian Dearsley
Advertising Sales Manager
Phone: (705) 687-3744
Email: bdearsley@live.ca

SAVE THIS DATE

Please Come

Lake of Bays Association

Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2012

Dwight Senior's Centre

10:30 a.m.

Lunch served following

This is an open meeting
with topics of interest to all

Everyone Welcome

Thank you Area Stewards...

I would like to thank the 40 Area Stewards who gave up part of their summer weekends to volunteer for the Association. Area Stewards take our message and describe our activities and areas of interest to residents who may be unaware of the value of membership. Area Stewards, your hard work in recruiting new members is much appreciated.

Ian White, Membership Chair

Gaylen Racine, Winner of the Betty Day Award

continued from page 1

people to change their behaviour if they are having fun gave rise to the Silent Boat Rally, an annual celebration of non-motorized boating that ran for several years. Never one to take himself too seriously, he promoted the event with the slogan "Get off your wazoo—Get in your canoe!"

As a retired employee of Imperial Oil, Gaylen participated in their Volunteer Involvement Program which has directed a significant yearly financial donation from Imperial Oil to the Lake of Bays Association.

Peer recognition is an important reward for volunteers and the Betty Day Award is the Association's highest volunteer award. Thank you Gaylen for your outstanding contribution.

Re-Greening Dwight Beach: A Story with a VERY happy ending

Deb Cumming, Environment Chair

The Dwight Beach re-greening project started as most LOBA projects do: the Association identified a need that became an action plan with identified goals and objectives that serve the organization's mandate.

Dwight Beach is a well-loved and actively used community park, swimming beach and boat launch. The beach, however, was uninspired; it is a single strip of sand with a small grass bank and retaining wall without natural plantings. The Environment Committee has been musing for several years about a 're-greening' initiative for Dwight Beach that would make the beach more aesthetically pleasing, provide much needed shade and help process overland water flows.

Beautification is not part of the Environment Committee's mandate but we couldn't resist the opportunity the project provided to show that re-greening and recreation are not incompatible. Every function of the beach has been respected and maintained—swimming, community events, picnicking, the boat launch—recognizing that Dwight Beach serves a vital role in the life of the community. But the re-greening has demonstrated that fun and functionality do NOT have to be sacrificed to environmental stewardship. The pier now has an indigenous plant garden that softens the landscape, stabilizes soil and overland water flows (to a small degree) and shows shoreline plantings don't automatically compromise views—they enhance them. The new maples along the Dwight Beach Road (and we may well plant a few more in 2012) will provide much needed shade and add to shoreline stability and storm water management. And ... a few bright red Muskoka chairs will be in place for anybody and everybody to take in the magnificent views of Dwight Bay and consider that environmental stewardship isn't tough—not when it involves protecting something that is important and valuable to us all.

I started this piece by referring to the Dwight Beach re-greening as a typical LOBA project. And it certainly followed a typical pattern up to a certain point. But

what made (and is continuing to make) this story special is the degree to which the LOBA team and their project were supported, encouraged and ultimately adopted by members of the Dwight community.

Stefan Szczerbak, the Township planner was very helpful in getting the project to Council which then gave us a big grin and said ... go for it! Rebecca Krawczyk of BarK Nursery completely understood the concept and delivered her usual terrific design plan, showing once again why she is our go-to girl for stewardship planting. Becky and her husband Peter were the team leaders and Gloria Woodside, Brian Simpson, Betty McDonald and I took two

days in June to move topsoil, grade beds, dig holes, do the planting and water, water, water. That's the LOBA piece.

But this was NOT just a LOBA endeavour; members of the Dwight community embraced the project wholeheartedly. Peggy Hurley was an invaluable source of support and encouragement to me in the planning stages of this project and provided good solid advice in terms of how to advance it. Peggy believed in the re-greening of Dwight Beach from the start and worked unselfishly and effectively to enable it. She shared our vision from the outset.

Linda Keown of the Dwight Garden

continued on page 5

A new and improved Dwight Beach—more photos in colour on www.loba.ca!

Before:



After:



The work in progress...



Rebecca Krawczyk and Peter Budwall of BarK Nursery unloading trees and plants



Breaking ground—volunteers arrived with shovels and watering cans

Gloria Woodside and Rebecca move topsoil to prepare the garden bed



Deb Cumming and Brian Simpson with one of 12 maple trees that were planted

Centre was another stalwart member of the team. The intention had always been to use the Centre as a major supplier of soil and trees. But, Linda (being Linda) was not prepared to stop at the role of arms-length supplier. Linda has not only financially supported the project, but come up with some creative ideas that she implemented at her own cost, such as the wonderful flower barrels that Algonquin Mini Storage supplied and Dwight Garden Centre stocks. In addition, she pursued the dream of “reading chairs” that Peggy and I shared until they became a reality, by contributing to them herself and encouraging the community to donate. Thank you to Dwight Lions’ Club and Algonquin Mini Storage as well as members of the community at large! Watch for installation in the spring of 2012!

The Dwight Beach is a LOBA project—it would be unfair to LOBA (who footed the lion’s share of the bill) to imply otherwise but ... it is NOT an exaggeration to say that the project team was made stronger and more effective through Peggy and Linda’s contributions. We also got a lot of moral, financial and logistical support from others in the community, including Jan Brown, Colin Winterbottom, Gary Best, Elaine Griffioen, Brian Simpson ... and sadly, I may be missing a few!

It gives me (your Environment Committee, your executive and your Board) great pleasure to introduce you to your new and improved Dwight Beach—a community project!

Hands-on Boating Course for Kids a Big Hit...

By Barry Johnson, Safety Chair

On July 10, 12 youngsters attended the Youth On Board course offered at Pride of Lake of Bays Marine. The one day program, for ages 8 to 12, is run by Boat Smart Canada in cooperation with the Lake of Bays Association.

The course content and instruction is specifically designed for kids. It includes a

classroom instruction in the morning and an afternoon of on-water practice. The kids take the Pleasure Craft Operator Card test during the morning session. All of our class of 12 (the maximum class size) earned their operator cards. Our instructors Joel Mackie and Daniella Zita were bright, well informed and created a great

atmosphere for both kids and parents.

Thanks to Pride of Lake of Bays Marine which generously provided terrific facilities and a Crownline boat.

Plans are already in the works for the course to be offered next July.

Standing room only at FOCA Cottage Succession Seminar

At the Dorset Seniors' Centre on August 27

A seminar dedicated to helping cottage owners pass down the cottage to the next generation attracted a full house at the Dorset Seniors' Centre on August 27. The Lake of Bays Association hosted the seminar, one of a series offered by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). Excellent presenta-

tions by estate lawyer Peter Lillico and financial planner Chad Trantor stimulated a lively discussion and many questions from the 67 people who attended. The agenda and handouts covered such topics as tax planning, joint ownership agreements, wills and even a family meeting checklist. If you missed this opportunity,

check the FOCA website (www.foca.ca) for information on other seminars either this winter or next summer. If there is going to be one in our area, we'll be sure to let our membership know. It was well worth the price of admission, which was a voluntary donation to FOCA.

Stewardship Guide Series

Introduction to a series of stewardship brochures

The Lake of Bays Association and its Environment Committee are very pleased to introduce our members to a series of stewardship brochures produced by the Muskoka Heritage Foundation. These brochures are based on prevailing sound science but are tailored to address Muskoka-specific concerns with practices and priorities that suit the Muskoka context and therefore provide uniquely 'made in Muskoka' solutions. The **Stewards' Guide Series** is a collaborative project of the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Muskoka watershed Council with funding from the Lake of Bays Association, Muskoka Lakes Association and a Cottage Life Environment grant.

Not all brochures in the series are completed yet, but we are pleased with the results so far and hope you will be too! Check out these two brochures posted on the LOBA website (www.loba.ca):

- SPECIES AT RISK in Parry Sound—Muskoka

- LIVING WITH BEAVERS on Private Land in Parry Sound—Muskoka

Still to come in the series is a brochure about how to soften a shoreline that has been altered and another about trail development on private land. We will keep you informed of their availability and encourage you to check them out online.

Maintaining and even enhancing the

environmental health of our much loved Lake of Bays must start with understanding environmental sensitivities and how we can be good stewards of our watershed. Not all of these brochures will resonate with everybody; not all of these brochures HAVE to resonate with everybody. Check them out and find out what is relevant to you in terms of your property and what you cherish about life in the Lake of Bays area.



MUSKOKA
HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

No overnight car or boat parking at Norway Point and Rabbit Bay

Since the 1980s, some residents of Bigwin Island and other water access properties have used the parking and docking facilities at Norway Point Park on a seasonal basis, a situation that raised the ire of some mainland residents who wanted the park to be a day-use only public facility. There is one other public park on Lake of Bays that provides car and boat parking for water access points, on Rabbit Bay near Dorset. But most of the concern about overnight parking has been focused on Norway Point Park.

The debate has frequently been heard at Council over the years. More recently, the Norway Point Advisory Committee established by the previous council was unable to come up with an acceptable plan that would provide space at Norway Point Park for overnight parking for water access residents on a user-fee basis.

On August 23, 2011 Council passed a parks by-law limiting parking at Norway Point from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Mayor Bob Young said he had hoped for a compromise that treated Norway Point as a dual use facility that allowed 72 hour parking in one of the parking lots and one of the docks, and day use only at the other lot and dock. The majority of Council did not support the mayor, and the resolution was defeated with only Shane Baker (District Councillor Sinclair/Ridout) and Ruth Ross (Area Councillor Ridout) voting in favour of the dual use proposal.

Norway Point Park and the Rabbit Bay landing were removed from the list of parks that were exempt from the day use only provision. The revised by-law will not take effect until the provincial government approves the schedule of fines, a process that normally takes six to eight weeks. At that point, no overnight parking will be allowed for cars or boats at any of the parks and boat landings on Lake of Bays.

By Fraser Govan and Gloria Woodside,
External Affairs Committee
with files courtesy of the Huntsville Forester

Memories of Glenmount DVD

The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation has produced a DVD capturing the early days of Glenmount, one of the earliest settlements on the lake, through photos and the personal reflections of several long time residents. The video was presented at the Foundation's Annual Meeting held on August 13 at the Lake of Bays Sailing Club, before a tour of some of the original Glenmount cottages. Copies of the DVD are still available at the Dwight and Baysville libraries. The cost is \$20 and proceeds support the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (www.lakeofbaysheritage.ca).

Burial Wall Installed at Seabreeze Church

Thanks to the efforts of Cathy Nystrom, a Lake of Bays resident and long time Association member, interment at Seabreeze Church is now possible with the installation this year of a columbarium (burial wall) on the church property. Cathy undertook this project when she discovered that in-ground burial was no longer allowed at the church. "I had always thought that I would be buried at Seabreeze Church so naturally I was disappointed to learn that this was not possible. It's taken me 13 years to work through the details with the cemetery board and the Township, but it's worth it. The wall is made of Muskoka granite and it is beautiful," reports Cathy. The columbarium is eight feet by four feet and is designed with 24 niches to hold cremated remains. Cathy notes that many of the niches are already spoken for.

Seabreeze Church is a 115-year-old building with a heritage designation. With no electricity and an old pump organ, it is only open for eight weeks in the summer. But for those who hold a special place in their heart for this small church, they can now make it their final resting place.

Advertise in the 2012 Yearbook

Early bird discount for ads booked and paid for by Dec. 31, 2011

We are pleased to report that there will be no increase in advertising rates for the 2012 Yearbook. In addition, all advertisers will receive a link on our website (www.loba.ca) at no additional cost.

The Lake of Bays Association Yearbook is our most popular and dearly-loved communication vehicle. If you have a product or service to sell that would appeal to waterfront property owners on Lake of Bays, please consider advertising in our Yearbook. If you know someone else who may be a potential advertiser, please tell them about our yearbook. For more information, please contact our Advertising Sales Manager, Bryan Dearsley at (705) 687-3744, or bdearsley@live.ca. Our advertising rates and order form are posted on www.loba.ca. Please help spread the word.

And if you are looking for advertiser information but left your yearbook at the cottage, simply click on the Products and Services button on the home page of our website for a link to our 2011 Yearbook advertisers.

Membership Renewal News

Credit card payment option is now available

This mailing of Current Connection includes your membership renewal invoice. Membership fees are due by December 31, 2011. There are new renewal options for 2012.

1. You may now use a VISA or MasterCard credit card to pay. If this is your choice, please provide the card details to Beverly Govan, our Administrative Assistant, when you complete your membership renewal form.
2. You may renew using the printed membership form included in this mailing, print one from the website www.loba.ca, or complete and submit your membership renewal on-line. Credit card transactions cost the Association. To save us money, we encourage you to mail a cheque with the completed membership renewal form just as you always have done.

The membership fee for 2012 remains at \$55.00, taxes included. Please continue to support our Action Fund, the Lake of Bays Annual Regatta and the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation with your generosity.

EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE PRIZES—for payments received by DEC. 5th!

If your membership renewal is received by December 5th, then your name will be entered in a lucky draw for these fabulous prizes:

- **Golf at Bigwin Island Golf Club—one round of golf for four people**
- **Rafters of Muskoka—\$100 Gift Certificate**
- **Lake of Bays Brewery Sweater**

Please provide us with your complete contact information when you renew...

Occasionally, the Association e-mails members to alert them of important news and issues. Providing your e-mail address enables us to contact you immediately. In addition, your proper address at the lake identifies the areas of the lake served by the Association enabling us to better represent you. If you are not sure of your lake address, it is on your property tax bill. You and your family should know this address in the event of a 911 call because the operator will request your location by fire number and road name. The Association does not share this information and if requested, we will not print it in the yearbook. But we do need it for our records. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Lake of Bays Photo Contest Deadline is December 31st

Categories: Life at the Lake—people, pets and dwellings

Nature—wild plants and animals

Landscapes—land, water and sky

The photo contest is open to all Lake of Bays Association members and their families. Photos must be previously unpublished and submitted, one per individual per category, in digital format to Aben Graphics: info@abengraphics.com before December 31, 2011

Please entitle the subject line of the email as “Lake of Bays Photo Contest”

Each participant agrees to have the Association use their photos in the newsletter, yearbook and website.

Don't wait. Send your photos today!



Photo by Rob Wallace



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