

Navigation Buoys at entrance to Ten Mile Bay have been re-located for safe passage between Elizabeth Point and Raynor Island... Oxtongue and South Muskoka River buoys also checked...

On August 17, the Coast Guard brought a boat to Lake of Bays to investigate the buoys off Elizabeth Point, at the mouth of the Oxtongue River and at the entrance to the South Muskoka River.

The red and green buoys off **Elizabeth Point** in Ten Mile Bay were re-located closer to shore away from the **Raynor Island** shoal. The red buoy was also moved further north. This shoal stretches east several hundred feet from the red buoy to the most easterly green flashing spar buoy. When navigating in this area, either pass through the red and green buoys (the pair closest to the Point), or between the most easterly green flashing spar buoy and Raynor Island.

The buoys at the entrance to **Oxtongue River** are where they should be. However, the siltation deposits at the river delta are dynamic and move over time. There is a siltation deposit that is now obstructing the channel to the river upstream from the buoys. The buoys will get you to the safest position to enter the river, but will not prevent you from encountering the silt deposit past the buoys. The message to anyone entering the Oxtongue is to be warned that they could hit the silt deposits. A canoe or kayak would be the best mode of travel.

The situation at the mouth of the **South Muskoka River** is different. There are 2 red buoys, one outside the mouth which is not lit, and the main buoy which is actually in the channel and is lit. When asked why the first buoy is not lit, the Coast Guard's response is that the lit buoy is the main navigation aid marking the sandbar in the river. Anyone navigating the river at night will need a strong flashlight or search light as the remaining buoys downstream are also not lit. Speed is limited to less than 10 Km/hr within 30 m of shore.

When navigating on Lake of Bays (and other lakes), it's not sufficient to just have your Pleasure Craft Operators Card. Every boater on Lake of Bays should have a Canadian Hydrographic Service chart #6023, and know how to read it and understand the navigation aids.

Thanks to Brian Tapley for taking the aerial photos of the Oxtongue River and Elizabeth Point / Raynor Island shoal buoys.

Get more information about ***who to contact*** regarding markers and buoys on the Lake of Bays at www.loba.ca//markers-buoys-lake-bays/

Barry Johnson, LOBA Safety Chair & Fraser Govan, LOBA External Affairs Committee

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION

Email: info@loba.ca