

CURRENT CONNECTION

Spring 2013 Vol. 24, No. 1



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

Photo Contest Winners

Sponsored by Aben Graphics



Carrie Harris wins the Life at the Lake category with this fantastic picture titled 'Dog Days of Summer.' Taken at her sister's cottage on Rabbit Bay, she says the dog Java loves the boat ride as much as the kids love tubing behind it. Nothing says summer better than boating, blue sky and the wind in your hair...

Congratulations to the winners of our 2012 Photo Contest:

Life at the Lake—people, pets & dwellings

- 1st Carrie Harris
- 2nd Anne Stueck
- 3rd Susan Johnson

Nature—wild plants & animals

- 1st Doug Peck
- 2nd Pat Sims-Eastwood
- 3rd Janine Geddes

Landscapes—land, water & sky

- 1st Susan Johnson
- 2nd Jai Moore
- 3rd Janine Geddes

The first place winners will receive a plaque mounted poster of their winning photo from Aben Graphics of Huntsville. Aben Graphics has published the Lake of

Bays Association Yearbook for more than 20 years and has sponsored the photo contest since 2006—thank you Aben! All the winning photos and dozens more of the entries are published in full colour in our yearbook. Check out the new Photo Gallery on www.loba.ca for contest submissions from the last three years. The 2012 contest photos will be posted following the delivery of the yearbook in June.

Thank you to all contestants. Your photos will be used on our website, in our newsletters and for our electronic NEWSFLASH bulletins. So even photos that didn't win—and it is always hard to pick between so many great shots—are shared with our members and the world beyond Lake of Bays. Start snapping NOW for the 2013 contest. Entry details will be published in the 2013 Yearbook and on www.loba.ca.

LOBA Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 13, 2013

Dwight Community Centre

9:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Patrick Boyer

Topic:

A FUTURE FOR MUSKOKA'S VACATION ECONOMY

J. Patrick Boyer says it is time to recognize and reinforce the primacy of Muskoka's vacation economy because everything of importance to Muskoka depends on its future. Dr. J. Patrick Boyer, Q.C. has been a typesetter, printer, newspaper reporter, television host, university professor and Member of Parliament. He is a lawyer and a frequent writer in Muskoka publications. As a fourth-generation Muskokan and President of Muskokabooks, Patrick is devoted to preserving the district's heritage and future well-being.

Details on Mr. Boyer's keynote address, exhibits and other meeting details will be in the summer issue of Current Connection and on www.loba.ca.

Please mark your calendar now.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

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President's Message

by Ian White, President

Many people I talk to at this time of year are surprised that I'm very busy with Lake of Bays Association business. The fact is that committee activities and initiatives keep the entire executive as busy in winter as in any other time of the year.

Our municipal governments have been busy finalizing annual budgets and service level plans which will determine improvements or curb costs. Ultimately, decisions are made that determine our property taxes. We are actively involved in this process at the local and district level.

Planning and development proposals are presented to Council throughout the year. Our committee members attend these meetings and monitor proposals. Where plans are presented that would affect a significant number of our members, or when a planning proposal requires extensive planning approvals, the Association gets involved.

At the federal and provincial level, cut-backs and off-loading occur regularly. Often, with the assistance of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), we register our concerns when important services might be lost. For example, the passage of Bill C-45 by the federal government has affected the Navigable Waterways Protection Act and reduced the number of lakes where it maintains the responsibility for navigational buoys from 32,000 to 97! Fortunately for us, Lake of Bays will not be directly affected.

On January 19 more than 50 members, directors and government representatives attended the Association's winter Board of Directors Meeting in Baysville. The winter meeting is open and allows members of the community to participate and ask questions. Each of our committees presented reports.

District of Muskoka Deputy Chair Scott Young said that he appreciated being invited to speak at the meeting. He emphasized the benefits of open dialogue. The Association encouraged the district to use zero-based budgeting, a system where budgets are based on the expected costs of the services needed rather than what was budgeted in the previous year plus a cost-of-living adjustment. Scott reported that



the district's Debt Reduction Initiatives since 2008 and more restrained budgeting has improved the district's credit rating and ability to self-finance capital projects, which is good for taxpayers in the long term. However, he expressed concern that zero-based budgeting could threaten some District programs and services.

Lake of Bays Councillor Nancy Tapley spoke on behalf of Council. Nancy updated the audience on the budget process, the district tourism review and current initiatives and concerns. In particular, cell tower placement plans, dock bubbler usage and warning device practices are receiving a great deal of attention from many area residents.

Summer Valentine, Manager of Planning Projects, District Municipality of Muskoka, our Guest Speaker, discussed upcoming planning initiatives. The District is conducting an Official Plan Review. Of particular interest are resort tourism policy, growth and development policy and a second home study update.

As I gaze out over the ice-covered lake, I ponder the question: What makes life so special and so different at Lake of Bays? At any time of year we enjoy a unique environment. We look out on a shared treasure while most people in this world are limited to the sights and sounds of immediate neighbours. We can take in everything

that our views have to offer—distant shorelines, trees and rock, sunrises and sunsets, the moon and countless stars, an ever-changing lake, loons and herons. Yes, there are signs of the human race, although hopefully overwhelmed by all of the natural beauty we are so fortunate enough to enjoy. Hundreds hear the sounds that we make. Our bright lights shine into the eyes of hundreds. Let us be mindful of what we cherish, and share it with our hundreds of neighbours with mutual respect.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable spring.

Ian White

LOBA Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for Directors. Each Director will work on one of the committees: Environment, External Affairs, Planning and Development, Membership, Communications, Finance and Safety. If you are interested or know of someone you would like to nominate for a position, please contact Mary Neal at nealaurora@sympatico.ca or (905) 727-2060 (705) 635-2187.

Congrats to winners of 2013 Membership Draw

Thank you to those who renewed their Lake of Bays Association membership before the December 5 early bird deadline, and to the sponsors of our 2013 membership draw.

Congratulations to the lucky winners;

Ian Macgregor & Peggy Clarke (Bigwin Golf Club—round of golf for 2)
David Wilkie & Susan Johnson (Dwight Garden Centre Gift Certificate)
Rick & Jennifer Marks (Lake of Bays Brewing Company Gift Certificate)

Still haven't renewed?

Reminder notices have gone out to those who have not yet renewed their 2013 membership. To ensure your name is included in the 2013 Yearbook, your membership must be received by March 31. Please renew today if you have not already done so. You can download a form from the LOBA website and either print and mail your payment or complete the form and pay online. Go to www.loba.ca and click on JOIN. Your prompt payment saves our volunteers many hours spent following up with unpaid members by phone and e-mail and guarantees that you will receive our newsletters and the Yearbook mailing in June. Please spread the word about membership to friends, neighbours and family members and encourage them to join. Together we are better.

Do we have your e-mail address?

Please ensure we have your e-mail address when you renew. This allows us to keep you informed of timely news and information via our electronic NEWSFLASH. We also encourage you to include the e-mail address of other adult family members who use your Lake of Bays property so they too have access to timely news and information that is of interest to everyone at Lake of Bays. Send us an e-mail at info@loba.ca to be added to our distribution list.

WHAT'S NEW @ www.loba.ca?

WEBCAM—Visit the lake in real time by clicking the WEBCAM button on our homepage. This link to the Bigwin webcam has been provided courtesy of the Bigwin Island Golf Club.

WEATHER REPORT—Check out our link to THE WEATHER NETWORK for the local weather forecast.

EVENTS—Click on the CALENDAR button for year round community events in and around Lake of Bays.

PHOTOS—Click on the PHOTO GALLERY button to see archived pictures from past photo contests. The 2012 contest photos will be posted shortly after the 2013 Yearbook is delivered in June.

CONTACTS—Click on ABOUT US for contact info for our current Board of Directors and administrative support people. Contact info for our Lake of Bays municipal government officials is also provided on our homepage.

CURRENT NEWS & INFO—Current news and information is regularly posted on our homepage. Bookmark www.loba.ca and visit us often.

If you have an event you would like added to LOBA's website calendar, please send the details (what, where, when and contact) to Linda Robinson at: lindaarobinson@gmail.com.

Update on Parking and Docking at Norway Point and Rabbit Bay

by Fraser Govan,
External Affairs

The use of Norway Point and Rabbit Bay parks as waterfront landings is allowed within the Township of Lake of Bays' current Official Plan. At a council meeting in March 2012, Council passed a resolution for a parks by-law, which divided the parking lots at both Norway Point and Rabbit Bay in two. One area allowed 72 hour parking for vehicles only, no trailers or boats or trailers with boats. The other area allowed daytime only parking for vehicles and for vehicles with trailers.

Following a variety of concerns from water access residents, the Township Council passed a **new** parks by-law on November 13, 2012 that is now in effect.

Changes at **Norway Point** are as follows:

- The large parking area, 1167 Old Hwy 117, will continue to be designated as day use only, with permitted vehicle (and trailer) parking from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. (formerly 10 p.m.).
- The small parking area, 1169 Old Hwy 117, is now set aside for long term parking with **no** time-limit restrictions rather than the previous limit of 72 hours. Lighting has also been installed in the area.
- Trailers are not permitted in the long term parking area from May 1 to October 31.

Similar changes also apply to **Rabbit Bay**. The two parking areas there have the same restrictions as Norway Point.

Boats may be docked at both landings subject to the day use restrictions. That is, no overnight or long term docking.

The set fines for violating the by-law range from \$255 to \$305, plus costs.

By-law 12-096 and associated maps may be viewed on the Township web site: www.lakeofbays.on.ca.

Rogers Cell Tower off Britannia Road Approved

by Wendy Gibson, Executive Coordinator and Brian Simpson, Planning Co-chair

Township of Lake of Bays Council has decided to support Rogers' plan to construct an 80-metre high cell tower located off Britannia Road just west of South Portage Road. The council meeting on February 12 devoted over three hours to the issue, hearing four delegations and allowing the public to ask questions before councillors discussed their positions. A tie-vote was broken when Mayor Young voted in favour of the application.

The tie vote was reflective of the public input, which has been equally divided. Opponents of the tower cited health concerns for those living in close proximity and an aesthetic objection because towers over 30.5 metres (100 feet) require lighting. Proponents noted the need for an improved wireless network in the Portage Bay area where Rogers is now experiencing gaps in coverage. The opportunity for the Township's Fire and Public Works Departments to collocate their radio and telecommunication facilities on the tower was another strong incentive for approval.

Rogers satisfied Industry Canada's public consultation requirements earlier and the Township Planning Department recommended that the tower installation be approved. But the decision was deferred in January pending confirmation from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) that its nearby tower was not suitable for the co-location of Fire and Public Works equipment, and also to seek input from the Town of Huntsville, because the tower is near the Huntsville boundary. On February 12 staff reported that the Town of Huntsville's response neither supported nor objected to the tower, and that the MNR tower was a feasible option for Fire and Public Services equipment at a cost of \$5,400 plus monthly rental fees.

In the meantime, Rogers re-visited the site and proposed another location on the same property further into the bush and lower in elevation. While self supporting (the tower will not need guy wires), lighting is still mandatory because of its height. Rogers will allow the Lake of Bays and Town of Huntsville Fire and Public Works Departments to



This tree tower installed by Bell off Delbrooke Road (as seen from Highway 117 west of Dorset) is under 30.5 metres (100 feet) and does not require lighting. Unfortunately tree towers are not adequate in all situations.

co-locate on the tower at no cost.

The Lake of Bays Association External Affairs Committee has followed the proceedings closely and found that the February Council meeting was a good example of a democratic approach to resolving a contentious issue. All speakers, both Councillors and members of the public, were well prepared and respectful. The Mayor was attentive to the audience's need to be heard and to understand the issue in all its complexities. While those opposed to the tower will not be satisfied with the outcome, the process was democratic.

This application raised interesting questions. Few would disagree that access to high-speed wireless service is now considered an essential service in Muskoka. It is important to all residents, permanent and seasonal, allowing us to maximize the use of our properties, facilitate business and to ensure emergency services. It's good for the local economy. But the natural environment is also critical to the economy of Muskoka so how can we develop communications infrastructure without disturbing our forests, views and night skies?

By necessity, utilities infrastructure is located near people. Site selection for cell towers is challenging at best, influenced by local topography and the availability of land among other factors. Many have expressed a preference for the smaller 'tree towers,' which are under 30.5 metres high and do not require lighting or a public approval process. In the case of the Britannia location, Rogers said that its

engineering tests indicated that their network requirements could not be met with a smaller tower in this location. Smaller towers are generally used to fill gaps in service between larger towers and are not high enough to accommodate co-location with additional service providers.

The Township and Industry Canada encourage service providers to co-locate where possible. Currently Bell has a transmission site on the old water tower on Bigwin Island, a conventional high tower (90 metres) on Fox Point Road and another high tower (105 metres) near Whitehouse Bay, and three tree towers. The tree towers are located on Winders Bay Road (Hwy 117 east of Baysville), Delbrooke Road (the Narrows) and Pine Ridge Road (South Portage Bay.) Rogers is co-located on the Fox Point Road and Whitehouse Bay towers. The Britannia Road tower will provide Rogers with coverage in Portage Bay and northeast across Dwight Bay.

What else is planned? Bell has proposed a high tower somewhere up Limberlost Road and Rogers will be proposing a high tower in the Baysville area. Both of these applications will require public consultation. The Lake of Bays Association will keep you informed as these applications come forward.

Will more towers be needed? According to Mayor Young, with the addition of towers at Limberlost and Baysville, Lake of Bays should have adequate cover-

continued on page 5

Rogers Cell Tower off Britannia Road Approved *continued from page 4*

age by the primary cellular service providers. The unknown variable in the equation is wireless data consumption. An increase in the number of devices, usage rates and upgraded technology will continue to create gaps in service. Smart

phones and tablets use more data than the older cell phones. We hope that these gaps can be filled with smaller tree towers or new technologies that replace towers altogether.

What does the future hold? The provi-

sion of wireless service is dynamic. Stay tuned. Public participation ensures communications companies will seek creative solutions with a focus on minimizing the impact of telecommunications infrastructure on the unique Muskoka environment.

District of Muskoka Passes 2013 Tax Supported Budget

by Bill Rogers, External Affairs Committee

In a distinct improvement, District Council approved the 2013 Operating and Capital Budgets for the District of Muskoka at its February meeting, two months earlier than usual. This change in Budget preparation timing was strongly advocated by Lake of Bays Mayor Bob Young, and supported by the Association.

More important, the approved Budget includes an increase of only 1 percent in net tax levy (the total amount of money raised through property taxes). That is less than half the rate of inflation and well below the increases budgeted in recent years.

The guidelines for the 2013 budget preparation released in June 2012 called for an increase in the net levy of 2.8 percent. The Lake of Bays Association, joined by other lake and ratepayer associations across Muskoka argued for smaller increases, and specifically requested a zero increase. After much discussion Council agreed to request that staff develop the initial draft budget using a zero increase target. District Staff are to be congratulated on achieving that goal.

During the budget approval process it became apparent that several councillors

were uncomfortable with a zero increase. After much discussion, several changes to the draft were approved leading to the 1 percent increase in the net levy. While the Association did not agree with all of these changes, they were of modest size and certainly made with good intent. We therefore decided not to oppose the compromise.

Solid waste disposal data was not available in time for this approval process and its budget will be presented in draft format for approval in May. We will continue to monitor the issues involving solid waste and will report to LOBA members at a later date.

Changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act

by Betty McDonald, Safety Chair

Last October the federal government introduced its second omnibus budget implementation act in the House of Commons. It amended the Navigable Waters Protection Act to reduce the

32,000 lakes in Canada previously protected to 97 lakes as well as 62 rivers, and three oceans. Fortunately Lake of Bays is one of the 97 still protected. This means the Marine Aids Program, overseen by the

Canadian Coast Guard will still monitor the navigational aids on Lake of Bays and will remain the regulatory authority for Private Buoys. A full navigational assessment survey is scheduled for this summer.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer Job Opportunity at Lumina

Lumina Resort on Upper Haystack Bay is looking for staff for summer 2013. Part time or Full time. Live at the cottage, have a fun summer on the lake and earn some money! Contact Vicki, e-mail your resume to: info@luminaresort.com

Men's Bridge Club—New Members Welcome

The group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 1 p.m. to approximately 4 p.m. It is a very friendly club and for fun only. Skill levels vary and beginners are welcome. We each contribute \$2 and after a small payout to the winners, the remaining money is donated, this year to the Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Foundation. The location varies around the lake, hosted by each man. The host provides light refreshments. For more information contact Ross Curtis at: rossdrcurtis@vianet.ca or phone 705 646 4318.

Last Call to Advertise in the 2013 Yearbook

The Lake of Bays Association yearbook is the best value for your advertising dollar. Delivered directly to the homes 75 percent of property owners on Lake of Bays, our yearbook is a trusted resource and reference for 12 months a year. All display advertisers also receive a direct link to their website from www.loba.ca. The 2013 Advertising Rate Card and Order Form are on the website. Please contact our Advertising Sales Manager Bryan Dearsley at bdearsley@live.ca or call (705) 627-9479.

Report on Municipal Finances

by Kathleen Black, Treasurer

At the February 2, 2013 Finance & Corporate Service Committee meeting the 2013 township budget was approved with a 4.8 percent increase in the net levy.

The township tax budget is about 22 percent of your property tax bill. The rest of your bill is from the District of Muskoka (44 percent) and the Province of Ontario for Education (34 percent). The District approved a 1 percent increase to its budget levy and the Province of Ontario Education a 4 percent reduction.

Assessment values for our area reflect only modest changes—in fact the total residential assessment for our area has decreased slightly.

Combining all three layers of tax (Township, District and Provincial), the net effect on your overall property tax bill for 2013 should be relatively small.

Highlights of the township 2013 budget are:

- an increase of \$185,024 to the general levy from \$3,841,251 to \$4,026,275.
- this 4.8 percent increase will be reflected as a 5.5 percent increase in your tax rate once the 2013 MPAC assessment phase-in amounts are considered. The residential tax rate per \$100,000 assessment will rise from \$143.23 in 2012 to \$151.08 in 2013.

Operations:

- no major increases or decreases in services other than additional brushing activity by Public Works (\$25,000) and more winter road maintenance requested by the public (\$5,000).
- the new Fire Services Agreement with the Town of Huntsville adds \$44,000 to the budget costs.
- an expanded Tourism and Economic Development budget adds \$15,000 to the net expenses.
- Two percent Cost of living plus salary grid adjustments for the Township's non-unionized employees adds \$42,000 to salaries/benefits costs.

Capital:

- a Capital Asset Management plan will be

undertaken with assistance from the Province for consulting fees. The impact of this plan will guide the Township's management of our capital assets (roads, bridges, culverts etc.), many of which are aging and include significant 2013 expenditures, noted below.

- the Camp Lake culvert needs to be repaired at a significant cost (current estimate is \$511,000 before any grants). This will be financed by a debenture once the costs are finalized adding new debt to the Township.
- East Cooper Lake Road (\$190,000), Elder Drive (\$150,000) and the Fieldgate Bridge (\$100,000 net of grants) will be paid from the proposed 2013 levy. Other road projects continue as planned.
- new snow plow truck (\$250,000) will be financed with a bank loan as usual.
- funds will be spent on improvements to the Dwight Community Centre (\$48,000) and the Lake of Bays Community Centre (\$79,000).
- the gravel surcharge will remain in addition to the general levy as we have a 10 year repayment program for the \$500,000 debt incurred in 2010.
- capital spending proposed for 2013 is close to \$2 million dollars after considering the above.

Reserves:

- reserves are projected to be close to \$2 million by the end of 2013.
- included in these reserves are \$230,000 from the sale of surplus land in 2012 and an estimated \$70,000 surplus from 2012.

So now what do we think?

Once again, the budget process was smooth and concluded just as the current year started. We again applaud the efforts of the Mayor, council and staff. We are also pleased that the Township's monthly reporting now includes a summary analysis to help understand the activity of the month.

At this time last year we had indicated to you that we were looking to see reserve guidelines developed to help manage the \$2 million reserve. In a letter to council in

January 2013, we asked that the Guidelines describe:

- The purpose of each reserve
- The desired level of each reserve
- How/when to achieve this level
- How/when amounts are to be withdrawn from the reserves

As well, we asked that the Development Charge reserve be reviewed to determine if it could be used to support our existing infrastructure costs.

We hope these guidelines will be completed this year.

At the end of the day we think the Township has sufficient resources in the budget to deliver excellent service to our residents next year. We do acknowledge, however, that maintaining our roads, bridges, and culverts is difficult and we will continue to monitor how the township plans to meet that challenge in a cost effective manner.

Late Breaking Budget Update: At the Feb 12, 2013 council meeting, the finance department presented a report to council showing that the previously estimated \$70,000 surplus for 2012 is now estimated to be close to \$500,000. While this may be good news and reflect kinder weather and close attention to spending, we are concerned about the accuracy of forecasting and subsequent impact on our levy. We will continue to monitor and report to you on the LOBA website.

Volunteer Opportunities Calling all Gardeners!

If you have a green thumb we could use your help weeding and watering the native species garden at Dwight Beach. The garden was planted in 2011 and needs some special attention to become fully established. Ideally a team of volunteers could handle it on a rotating basis, requiring as little as one day over the growing season, or more for those who are interested. Bring your own tools and watering can. For further information or to sign up, please contact Deb Cumming at: dacumming75@gmail.com.

Spotlight on District Planning Initiatives at Winter Board Meeting

by Brian Simpson, Planning Co-chair

The District of Muskoka Official Plan consists of goals, objectives and policies to guide the type and location of land uses in Muskoka, and to protect the natural environment. The Ontario Planning Act requires the District to review and revise its Official Plan every five years. That review is now underway and the Lake of Bays Association invited the District's Manager of Planning Initiatives, Summer Valentine, to our Winter Board Meeting to update us on any policy changes that may be of interest to Lake of Bays property owners.

Ms. Valentine said that new policy directives are addressing climate change and emphasizing healthy communities by encouraging the use of multi-modal and active transportation systems. Other directives encourage the preservation of our natural heritage, water quality and biodiversity through wetland conservation, ecosystem valuation, shoreline naturalization and the restriction of future development on flood plains.

The Official Plan also addresses economic development issues. Policy changes are expected to address the challenges facing resort and tourist businesses on waterfront lots following a recent study which indicated declining occupancy rates and changing market trends for tourism, so be prepared to see recommendations for more flexible zoning policies. How important is the need to protect and preserve waterfront lots zoned for commercial resort use? Should multiple residential developments (like row housing) be permitted on commercially-zoned waterfront lots or should secondary dwelling units such as an apartment above a detached garage or family compounds be allowed to replace commercial waterfront resorts? How will the scale, form and density of such cluster developments be determined? These questions and more will be addressed in the Official Plan revisions and they will be posted on LOBA's website once they become public.

Demographic trends influence policy changes in any Official Plan. The seasonal nature of residents in Muskoka has a pro-

found economic influence. Of the 76,000 seasonal residents District-wide, over 11,500 call Lake of Bays their second home. The seasonal residents generate \$600 million for the local economy of which \$91 million comes from Lake of Bays residents. Several social and economic issues have accompanied the changing demographics. For example, many seasonal residents rent out their cottages but do not have to comply with the same zoning restrictions as commercial resort owners. Resort owners see this competition as unfair. In addition, more seasonal residents are becoming permanent residents and their needs are different. New policies in the Official Plan are expected to address this demographic transition. The

need for affordable housing could also permit expanded types of secondary dwelling units, such as Granny cabins on waterfront lots. New planning directives may also address gaps in the level of community services through grants provided by the District's Pay It Forward program.

A draft of proposed policy changes in the Official Plan will be presented by the Planning Department to the District Council for public discussion before any policy is enacted. The proposed changes to the Official Plan are expected later this spring. LOBA will ensure our members are advised of all opportunities for public input and feedback, primarily on our website and through our electronic Newsflash bulletins.



W ²⁰¹³ **HAT ARE YOU WATCHING?**

MUSKOKA STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 27, 2013
9 am to 4 pm
Nipissing University
Muskoka Campus, Bracebridge

\$30

Register at
www.muskokawatershed.org

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Andrew Paterson, MOE

- ☞ Algae ID & Monitoring
- ☞ NatureWatch
- ☞ Adopt-A-Pond
- ☞ Landscaping for Wildlife
- ☞ Loan Survey
- ☞ Water Quality Data

and more!

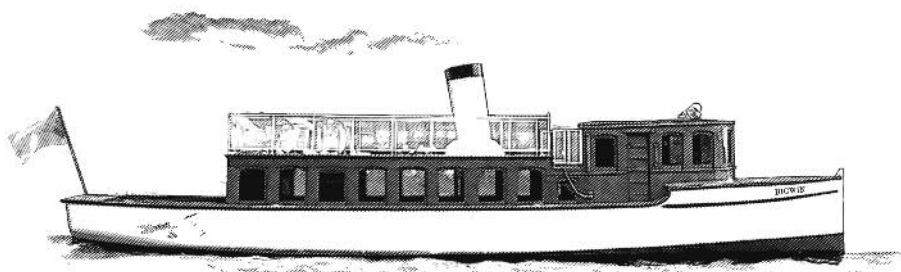
Come on Board!

After 44 Years, the S.S. Bigwin Sails Lake of Bays

After a long, twelve-year journey from its half-sunken, dilapidated condition, this historic vessel is restored and shipshape, ready for use this summer. The SS Bigwin will have regularly scheduled cruises that are free to the public (generous donations are welcome). It is also the perfect venue for wedding parties, corporate outings, special birthdays or other private events. Cruises of up to four hours are possible for those who join the Lake of Bays Marine and Navigation Society. Considerable time has been spent estimating operating costs and arriving at sug-

gested donation levels for private and public cruises. It is anticipated that demand will be high, so plan ahead for your special event. Information regarding public cruise schedules and arranging private use is available on the new website: <http://ssbigwin.com>

The website also has information on the history of the SS Bigwin and a video clip of its first voyage in 40 years, taken on November 10, 2012 under power of its new electric engine. A piece of our lake's history has been lovingly restored and it's ours to share.



SS BIGWIN

LAKE OF BAYS



The SS Bigwin on the water last November to test drive her new electric engine.

**SAFE BOATING
COURSES
with
PCOC TEST
at Pride of
Lake of Bays
Marine**



Youth On Board: for kids 12–15 years
Tues. July 2 (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Women On Board—women of all ages
Wed. July 3 (9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Offered by BOATsmart Canada certified instructors. Includes on-water boat handling practice, in-class review and Pleasure Craft Operator's Card exam. Look for details in the 2013 LOBA Yearbook and on www.loba.ca. Cost: \$125.

To register contact BOATsmart at:
info@BOATsmartExam.com

Phone: 1-877-792-3926 and speak to Customer Care or Kristina at ext. 214.



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Lake of Bays Association
P.O. Box 8
Baysville, Ontario, P0B 1A0

PHONE: (705) 767-3395
FAX: (705) 767-1044
E-MAIL: info@loba.ca
WEBSITE: www.loba.ca

EDITOR: SALLY COUTTS
PHONE: (613) 236-0621 or (705) 635-2567
E-MAIL: sallycoutts@sympatico.ca

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