

CURRENT CONNECTION

Spring 2014 Vol. 25, No. 1



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

President's Message

by Ian White, President, Lake of Bays



After an unusually cold and snowy winter, we are all looking forward to signs of spring. The effects of the extreme weather seem to be showing up annually; from low lake levels in the summer of 2012 to the flooding last spring, things are changing. As a result many of our members have asked about water level management, insurance and advice on property protection. These are topics that your association has been studying. Wendy Gibson and I were fortunate to attend a meeting on lake level management with the Ministry of Natural Resources, which was arranged by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). We expect that relationships such as the one between FOCA and MNR will lead to a better understanding of what we can expect in the future. At the same time, we want to make sure that the Ministry understands the effect of changing lake levels on our members. In addition, we are working with the insurance industry to understand the types of damage that are covered and the risks we can anticipate in the future. It is our objective to ask the right questions and report the answers, to help protect your family and your property against the potential consequences of extreme weather events. We will be reporting the results of our efforts as we go forward with these initiatives.

On January 18th, we held our Open Board of Directors meeting at the Dwight Seniors' Centre. The weather cooperated, and we greeted a total of 51 attendees. Our local politicians usually attend the winter meeting to update us on Township and District activities. District Chair John Klinck and Mayor Bob Young spoke about the past year and plans for 2014. Highlights from their comments and a presentation about the proposed nurse practitioner station in Dorset appear in this issue of Current Connection.

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SAVE THESE DATES

Muskoka Summit on the Environment from science to policy

Environment vs Economy—Resolving the Dichotomy
May 8–9 in Bracebridge

Keynote Speaker: Robert Bateman, renowned Canadian wildlife artist, naturalist and conservationist. For information on speakers and to register visit www.muskokasummit.org

Huntsville Festival of the Arts

May Marché

May 16 at Deerhurst Resort

Tickets available at Algonquin Theatre, Robinson's Independent Grocer and Treasures and Trophies in Huntsville.

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Baysville Community Centre

Guest Speaker:

Adam Caswell, Hutcheson, Reynolds & Caswell
Insurance Brokers

Topic: Expect the Unexpected

Don't let severe weather catch you by storm.

Protecting your property in a changing environment.

Meeting details on www.loba.ca

BOATsmart Courses & PCOC Exam

Youth on Board—Tues. July 8

Women on Board—Tues. July 15

Family on Board—Tues. July 22

at Pride of Lake of Bays Marine

Registration info on www.loba.ca

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President's Message *continued from page 1*

The growing use of dock bubblers and the warning lighting that is often associated with them has been a hot topic in Muskoka this winter. I believe the exact benefits of the devices and the real risks of ice damage are not well understood. This is an area where your association can help you understand the issues and suggest best practices. New legislation has been in place in the Township of Lake of Bays since October, which governs outdoor lighting, including bubbler warning installations.

The SS Bigwin completed its first year of operation last summer. I expect you have seen it on the lake and I hope you have been able to experience firsthand the

excitement of cruising on board. In 2014, LOBA members will be entitled to a member discount when booking SS Bigwin private cruises.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. We count the majority of the lakefront residents as members, but it is important that everyone helps in our efforts to protect our environment and maintain the enjoyment that comes with life at Lake of Bays. For information about your 2014 membership, please contact Beverley Govan at (705) 767-3395.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable spring.

Jan White

Nurse Practitioner Station in Dorset Seeks Community Support

The Dorset Community Partnership Group and a Dorset Volunteer Health Care Team have been working for over two years to bring primary health care to the rural areas of the greater Dorset area. Collaboration with the District of Muskoka, Townships of Lake of Bays and Haliburton Highlands and many health agencies has resulted in an application to the Ontario government for funding of a nursing station in Dorset. Approval is expected this spring. Herb Hickling, the Dorset Health Care Team Lead, and Nurse Practitioner Donna Kearney made a presentation at the LOBA Winter Board meeting to provide our members with information and answer questions about the initiative.

The facility will be managed by an accredited nurse practitioner providing health care five days a week. Nurse practitioners can prescribe medications, treat episodic illnesses and injuries, suture simple lacerations, set simple fractures, and monitor and manage chronic diseases, among other things. This facility will provide primary care for permanent residents, cottagers and tourists. It is intended to reduce the time and costs associated with travel to the emergency room by providing care close to your home or cottage. Nursing stations do not require you to give up your family doctor, nor do they cause your family doctor to be penalized for you being seen by another health-care provider.

The community has secured a location on Main Street, subject to approval of the funding application. This location provides 92 square metres of clinic space and will require renovations to meet medical/clinic standards. While salary, benefits, one-time equipment fees and most operating expenses are covered by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, capital improvements need to be covered by the community and participating municipal governments.

The Dorset Health Care Team is seeking community support through pledges that will be collected when the funding application is approved. If you wish to support this initiative, please submit the PLEDGE FORM found on page 8 of this issue of Current Connection. For more information about Nurse Practitioners and this nursing station proposal in particular, visit www.loba.ca and view the News & Events page.

The District of Muskoka is asking the community to support their funding application by sending a letter to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, Deb Matthews. A sample letter and where to send it is also posted on www.loba.ca, or contact the District of Muskoka at (705) 645-2231.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Water Quality Testers

are needed to obtain water samples on about five dates throughout the summer (rain or shine) and deliver them to a central location. Training is provided, so no experience is necessary. But commitment to participate on the prescribed dates and access to a boat is required. Sites requiring testers are still to be determined for 2014, but we try to assign testers to locations near their cottages. If you have an interest in water quality and want a hands-on project, then this job is for you. Contact Deb Cumming at dacumming75@gmail.com.

Gardeners

We could use some help weeding and watering the native species garden at Dwight Beach. The garden was planted in 2011 and although it is now better established, it still needs some special attention. Bring your own tools and watering can. Contact Deb Cumming at dacumming75@gmail.com.

More Gardeners

If you enjoy a bit more heavy lifting in the garden, we will be looking for some help digging beds and planting new native species at the township office this spring. Dates for this project are not yet confirmed, but we would like to establish a work crew in advance. Many hands make light work. Bring our own shovel and willingness to dig-in. Contact Deb Cumming at dacumming75@gmail.com.

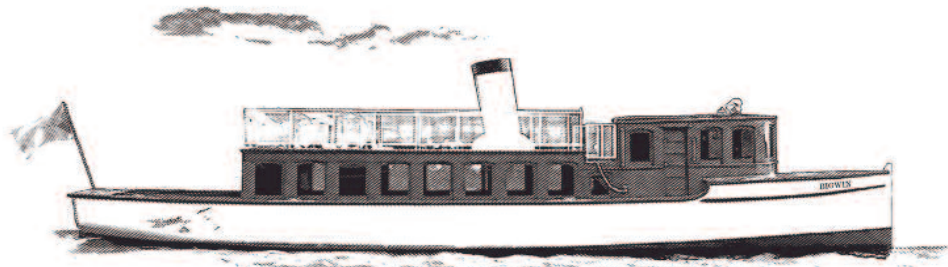
Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for Directors of the Lake of Bays Association. Each Director will serve on one of the following committees: Environment, External Affairs, Planning and Development, Membership, Communications, Finance and Safety. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information about serving on LOBA's board, please contact Betty McDonald at betty.home@rogers.com, or call (705) 635-2817.

Private Cruises available June 6th - September 26th
Inquire about Food & Beverage Catering options

Regular Departures from Dorset
Pick-up/Drop-off at multiple locations on Lake of Bays
Ship Capacity - 30 persons

Book A Private Cruise On Board the SS BIGWIN



SS BIGWIN

LAKE OF BAYS

Private Cruises are \$750/hr (minimum 2 hours)

Members of The Lake of Bays Association entitled to 10% discount for cruises booked by June 1st, 2014

Avoid disappointment and Book Now!

For more information or to reserve dates
EMAIL ssbigwinprivatecruises@yahoo.ca

Corporate Events – Family Reunions – Weddings – Private Functions

www.ssbigwin.com

WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Key Issues, Hot Topics and Priorities for 2014

LOBA invited our political representatives to share their news and views on matters of importance to Muskoka and Lake of Bays at this year's Winter Board Meeting held on January 18 in Dwight. With the municipal elections on October 27, 2014, our guest speakers were asked to talk about the key issues and hot topics of 2013 and their priorities for the final months of this council's term. Here are the highlights of remarks by District Chair John Klinck and Mayor Bob Young:

From District of Muskoka Chairman John Klinck...

Highways—The condition of provincial highways around Muskoka has been a concern in recent months and the District of Muskoka and municipal mayors plan to approach the Ministry of Transport regarding highway maintenance protocols.

Water Level Management—In the aftermath of the flooding last spring, questions remain about water level management in Muskoka. The District will be in contact with Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) about facilitating a session for municipal leaders to better understand water management procedures and preparation for future floods.

Staff Changes—Employee turnover in four key positions at the District office last year resulted in the hiring of the following exceptional individuals: Michael Duben, Chief Administrative Officer, Julie Stevens, Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Services, Samantha Hastings, acting Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, and Katherine Rannie, Administrator for The Pines Long Term Care Facility.

2014 Budget—The Rate Supported Budget was passed with a 1.3 percent increase for users of water and sewer services. The first draft of the Tax Supported Budget met the guideline set in June for a 1.8 percent increase. Committee review and final approval will complete the budget process by February 18.

Service Review—A review of District services was recently completed by an outside consultant and presented to Council on January 20. The consultant's report contains 38 recommendations relating to six service areas. The CAO will be working with the chairs of all standing committees to review the recommendations and receive public input before reporting back to District Council. This Outside Service Review is in addition to the Internal Service Review that was completed by staff and committees with a public advisory committee in October 2011.

Second Home Study—The District undertook a Second Home Study in 2013, its fourth since 1974. The District, municipalities, businesses, hospitals and other stakeholders use the Second Home Study to plan for infrastructure development, programs and services. It is the only source of information on the seasonal population. With 5,255 completed surveys received from 20,860 that were mailed out, a 25 percent response rate, the results are considered significant. In Lake of Bays Township there are 13,000 seasonal residents (78 percent) and 3,500 permanent residents (22 percent). Seventy percent of second homeowners have a household income of \$100,000 and spend an average of \$736 per week on common items. Most shopping is done in Muskoka, with Huntsville being the primary shopping area for Lake of Bays second homeowners. Eight percent of second homeowners throughout Muskoka indicated that they plan to move permanently to Muskoka, and visitation in the shoulder seasons (spring and fall) is increasing. (Note: For a summary of Quick Facts and a link to the 2013 Second Home Study report, visit www.loba.ca—see the News & Events page).

Community Services—Chair John Klinck expressed his continued concern about the number of people in Muskoka that are challenged by disability or an inability to find meaningful work, as well as the lack of year round employment. Statistics over the last 10 years suggest that

Muskoka has the largest growth in social service requirements in Ontario. Of 11 children Mr. Klinck met at one of the District's youth programs, five had never been in a boat, something that is almost unimaginable in a place like Muskoka. Last year the District of Muskoka sent 239 kids to local camps through their Summer Camps program.

From Township of Lake of Bays Mayor Bob Young...

Water!—The flooding in April was the big event of 2013. Although devastating, the flood also proved to be a tremendous example of how the community came together to manage the situation and repair the damage afterwards. The Township acted quickly to apply for funding from the Ontario Disaster Relief Program (ODRAP) and was pleased to receive a \$375,000 grant that covered all costs associated with repair and replacement of public infrastructure. Staff is to be commended for their emergency response, hard work repairing the damage and quick follow up with ODRAP. Water, in the form of snow, continues to accumulate in the bush this winter, which could mean another interesting spring. As we found out last year, even with all the logs out of the dam in Baysville, enough water couldn't drain from the lake because of the pinch point at the narrows in the river. We need to be well prepared in advance for high water flows.

Finances—Fiscally, the township ran very close to budget most of the year. Revenue from the purchase of original shoreline road allowances was \$150,000 over budget. With the \$375,000 ODRAP grant, the township anticipates at least a \$400,000 surplus, maybe more. The first draft of the 2014 budget reflects a 3.3 percent increase. Given the surplus, there may be an opportunity to reduce the increase, while also keeping in mind the need to reinvest in aging infrastructure. (Note: See pages 6 and 7 for updated information on the 2014 budget subsequent to Jan 18 Winter Meeting).

Winter Meeting Highlights *continued*

Asset Review—The physical assets around the township (facilities and buildings etc.) are aging. Most were built in the early 1970s. The township is in the process of developing an Asset Plan that will determine which assets need to be repaired, replaced, reconfigured or disposed of, as well as how much money needs to be set aside to accomplish the plan.

Cell Phone Towers—After three years of concerted effort to get more cell towers because Lake of Bays was so poorly covered, we now have to “be careful what we wish for!” The township has received two competing proposals (from Bell and Rogers) for tower installations within 300 metres of each other in the Limberlost Road area. The township has advised that there will only be one tower and has directed the applicants to determine if co-location is a suitable solution. The township has also challenged Bell on the height of the existing tower in the Delbrooke Road area. The tree tower is highly visible from Highway 117 and the water and the township wants to ensure it is actually only 29.9 metres as proposed. Rogers has since applied for another tower just 100 metres away from Bell’s Delbrooke Road tower. The downside of tree towers is that they are not tall enough to allow co-location. The township will try to work with Rogers to find a different location for its tower that will provide coverage in the Dorset area without adding another highly visible tower to the same area.

Official Plan Review—As mandated under the Planning Act, the Township of Lake of Bays is undertaking a review and update to its 1999 Official Plan. The selection of Tunnock Consulting from North Bay to lead the project is an exciting choice. We hope that Tunnock’s vast experience with many different communities will bring a fresh perspective to Lake of Bays’ planning policies. Opportunities for public engagement will be available throughout the process. Visit the township website at www.lakeofbays.on.ca/content/planning-department and stay tuned for new information on the soon-to-be-created Facebook and twitter links. (Note: Lake of

Bays Association Planning Chair, Brian Simpson, will be participating on a citizen advisory committee for the OP Review).

Bubblers—The Township of Lake of Bays has decided that it will not regulate bubblers. While some municipalities may be considering bubbler regulation, the Township has determined that, because bubblers are in the water, they are not within township jurisdiction. If, however, you decide to install a bubbler and a warning light, then your light must comply with the new Dark Sky Bylaw. It cannot be a strobe light and it cannot be red.

District—Mayor Young noted that the township’s greatest financial challenge has been with the District of Muskoka, which he characterized as “our biggest uncontrolled cost centre.” Of the \$17 million in taxes raised in the Township, about \$8 million goes to the District, while the Township share is \$4 million. As long as the cost allocation method is based on property assessment, the rural municipalities will pay a premium, the mayor said. Since the towns control the vote, there appears to be little support to change the allocations. Given these constraints, Mayor Young says he has been focusing on where cost savings can be made. He has been vocal in discussions involving the Muskoka Airport, which he said has lost money every year since the District took it over in 1996. The operating deficit is now \$300,000 with capital costs of \$500,000 annually. Mayor Young also expressed disappointment in the Outside Service Review, which he felt ignored or reversed recommendations from a previously completed review of the airport and focused on six service areas that excluded public works. Mayor Young was also disappointed in the 24 percent increase that Lake of Bays will incur for solid waste management fees, an increase he felt was presented as a done deal with no willingness to negotiate (Note: see “Property Tax Update” on page 6 for details on waste management fees). On a positive note, Mayor Young was pleased to see the quality and capability of the new hires in the District’s key administrative positions and keeping the 2014 budget to a 1.8 percent increase is commendable.

Elections October 27, 2014

With only nine months until the next municipal election, Mayor Young said that council needs to “focus and get what we need done up front now.” He encouraged the Lake of Bays Association to talk to its members and encourage people to run for election. “We need commitment and people willing to stand for election. I don’t want to see any acclamations. I’d like to see competition for every position.”

Clarification re Strobe Lights and the New Dark Sky Bylaw

Effective October 8, 2013, the new Dark Sky Bylaw regulates outdoor lighting in the Township of Lake of Bays. The bylaw clearly prohibits strobe lights. Because there was some confusion about the status of strobe lights installed before October 8, 2013 to mark open water hazards created by dock bubblers, LOBA contacted the Township Bylaw Services department for clarification. Here’s what we learned. Lights, including strobes, installed before the new Dark Sky Bylaw came into effect are “grandfathered” or permitted to remain in place, but if the light fixture is **moved, replaced, or maintained** (for example, a light bulb is changed), then the new Dark Sky Bylaw applies and strobe light is prohibited. We hope that property owners with grandfathered lighting will be interested in supporting the spirit of the bylaw and select sensitive lighting options to avoid light trespass on their neighbours. The snowmobile community has suggested that an amber light is the best colour for a warning light. The township’s new bylaw prohibits flashing lights, so a static amber light seems like the best solution if you opt to install bubbler warning lights. The Dark Sky Bylaw is posted on the township website (www.lakeofbays.on.ca) or contact the Township Bylaw Officer, Mike Wilmon at MWilmon@lakeofbays.on.ca, 705-635-2272 ext 243. LOBA encourages people who have bubblers to use timers/thermostats and have their bubblers monitored to control the amount of open water.

PROPERTY TAX UPDATE

The District of Muskoka approved a 1.2 percent increase to its 2014 tax levy, the Township approved a 2 percent increase and Province of Ontario Education portion of your tax bill will see a 4 percent reduction. Combining all three layers of tax (Township, District and Education), the net effect on your overall property tax bill for 2014 should be relatively small. Budget highlights are as follows:

Highlights of the District Budget:

by Bill Rogers, External Affairs Committee

The District of Muskoka Council approved the 2014 operating budget with a net levy of \$64,058,839, an amount 1.8 percent above that of 2013. However, when adjusted for assessment growth this equates to a tax rate increase of 1.2 percent over 2013. The dollar increase for tax-payers will therefore be \$6.54 per \$200,000 of assessed value. The budget was passed without major controversy with only very minor changes which had no impact on the net levy.

Increase in

Waste Management Fees:

The new system for assigning costs for solid waste management to the six municipalities within Muskoka was a contentious issue before the budget debate, particularly for Lake of Bays. Managing waste in

Muskoka costs about \$10 million a year. The new formula for sharing costs will see costs increase in some communities and decrease in others. Lake of Bays will see the biggest increase at 24 percent (\$135,000). But to put this in perspective, Lake of Bays' total solid waste management costs will still be less than half that of the lowest costs of the other Muskoka municipalities. It could be argued that we have been paying less than our fair share under the old cost-sharing formula. But our transfer stations are the most cost-effective in the district and we felt that the allocation model used unfairly penalizes the rural municipalities because it was based on the number of occupied and vacant units per municipality, not on population.

The Lake of Bays Association submit-

ted a letter of objection to the new system and requested that the increase at least be phased in over four years. Our Mayor and District Councillors voted against the increase, but to no avail. The new cost allocation formula was approved by District Council in November. What remains to be determined is how this cost will be charged back to taxpayers. In the past, solid waste costs have been part of the assessment-based tax levy, meaning that what you pay depends on the value of your property so waterfront property owners paid more. A flat fee per household is being considered and Mayor Young has indicated that Lake of Bays is looking at whether this can be implemented in our township despite advice to the contrary from the district.

Highlights of the Township Budget:

By Kathleen Black, Treasurer, Lake of Bays Association

On January 21st Council approved the 2014 budget for the Township of Lake of Bays with a 2 percent increase in the levy. Once the change in assessment base is considered, the net effect on your overall property tax bill for 2014 should be relatively small for the township component.

The Levy:

- an increase of \$80,526 (2 percent) to the general levy from \$4,026,275 to \$4,106,801
- this 2 percent increase will be funded by the 2.06 percent increase in the total Lake of Bays assessment—hence the residential tax rate per \$100,000 assessment will decrease from \$151.08 in 2013 to \$151.01 in 2014

Operations:

- no major increases or decreases in services other than as noted below

- addition of a part time reception person \$21,500
- additional ditching and brushing activity \$50,000
- continuation of the new Fire Services Agreement with the Town of Huntsville—\$43,000
- grant of \$30,000 towards the proposed Nurse Practitioner Station in Dorset
- 0.5 percent Cost of Living plus salary grid adjustments adds \$22,000 to salaries/benefits costs

Capital:

- During the year two key planning documents were completed: the Asset Management Plan and an internal Capital Asset Review. The impact of these plans will guide the township's management of our capital assets (roads, bridges, culverts, buildings etc.),

- many of which are aging and will require significant expenditures over the next ten years. The Asset Management Plan indicated that the township will need to incur \$10 million debt, levy or other financing over the next 10 years to replace aging structures and buildings.
- Major road works planned for 2014 from the levy include Old Highway 117 (\$400,000) and the Paint Lake Road Bridge (\$350,000). Other road projects will continue as planned in the existing ten-year Capital Budget Projections
- A new public works grader (\$310,000) will be financed by a bank loan.
- Capital funds will continue to be spent at both the Dwight Community Centre (\$12,000) and the Baysville Community Centre (\$18,500)

Property Tax Update *continued*

- 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.
- In total, capital spending proposed for 2014 is about \$1.5 million.

Reserves:

This time last year I indicated that the reserves were projected to be close to \$2 million by the end of 2013. The reality is that these reserves at the end of 2013 are now estimated to be \$3.7 million. So what happened? The major changes were:

Increased original lakeshore road allowance closings	\$235,000
Increase in parks reserve fund	\$221,000
Increase in gas tax reserve	\$221,000
Surplus: 2012.....	\$550,000
Surplus: 2013.....	\$375,000
Other, net.....	\$98,000
Total more reserves	\$1,700,000

So now what do we think?

As in the past couple years, 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 reporting continues to include a monthly summary analysis. During the year detailed reserve guidelines were developed to help manage the reserves. An analysis of each reserve was detailed indicating its use, target balance, etc.

At the end of 2013 our \$3.7m reserves are about 90 percent of the annual \$4 million levy or about 11 percent of the cost of our capital assets (roads, bridges, culverts, buildings)

For 2014, about \$128,000 of these reserves is targeted to fund the ditching and brushing activity, updating the roads needs study and keeping the levy increase limited to 2 percent as noted above.

Is this good or bad?

This depends on how you look at it. In prior years we were lagging behind many other Ontario municipalities when benchmarking our reserves compared to total assets or total levy. We have now caught up!

We do, however, have some concerns that this “back door” increase in our reserves has not been fully communicated to the public. Perhaps the levy increase in 2013 should have been less? Perhaps more road work should have been done?

We understand that there is a need to update our infrastructure and that this costs a lot of money—money which will come from federal and provincial government grants, debt, the levy and our reserves. We hope that a plan can be developed from the various capital asset reports, including the updated roads needs study, in the months before the election, which will outline future costs and how they will be funded and how our reserves will be used. This plan should be then fully communicated and endorsed by all.

Congrats to Winners of 2014 Membership Draw

Thank you to all who renewed their 2014 membership before the Early Bird deadline! The lucky winners of our Early Bird Renewal Draw are:

Kent Thomson & Shelly Allen
a round of golf at Bigwin Island Golf Club

Ian Telfer & Nancy Burke
Rafters Gift Certificate

Bob & Mary Catherine Acheson
Dwight Garden Centre Gift Certificate

Reva Krongold
Lake of Bays Brewing Company Gift certificate

A special thanks to Bigwin Golf Club, Rafters, Dwight Garden Centre and Lake of Bays Brewing Company for donating the prizes.

Congratulations to Photo Contest Winners

Sponsored by Aben Graphics



Congratulations to the winners of our 2013 Photo Contest

Life at the Lake—people, pets & dwellings

- 1st Yvonne Boa
- 2nd Don McCreesh
- 3rd Brian Jones

Nature—wild plants & animals

- 1st Hilary Curren
- 2nd Barb Harper
- 3rd Warren Prince

Landscapes—land, water & sky

- 1st Jai Moore
- 2nd Larry Dance
- 3rd Hilary Curren

Look for these photos and many more in the 2014 Yearbook in June. Thank you to all the contestants. Your photos will be used on our website, in our newsletter and for our e-news. First place winners will receive a plaque mounted poster of their winning photo from Aben Graphics.



Photo by Yvonne Boa

YOU ASKED...

Are Carbon Monoxide Detectors mandatory in Ontario?

On November 27, 2013 the Hawkins-Gagnac Act was passed by the Ontario legislature. It requires at least one working CO detector per residence where there is a fire-place, fuel-burning appliance or heating system or an attached garage. This legislation was five years in the works and will be enforced by local fire departments under the Fire Prevention and Protection Act of Ontario.

What is the schedule for lowering the lake level this spring?

When we contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on February 19th, the drawdown on Lake of Bays was well underway and the lake was already about 40 centimetres below its typical summer water level. The water level was to continue to drop approximately 1 cm per day until the drawdown target level is achieved, which is usually between mid-March and early April. If the snow water content in mid-March is more than 50 percent above normal, the lake may be drawn down an additional 15 centimetres. For information on water level management, including a link to real time water level measurements for Lake of Bays, visit the Muskoka Water Web (<http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/water-101/water-quantity/mrwmp>). The protocol for public notification of flood warnings is that the MNR office in Bracebridge is responsible for issuing local flood messages to the Township of Lake of Bays, which is responsible for local flood response. If the MNR has not already done so, the Township would notify the public via the news media (Moose fm 105.5), twitter (@LakeofBaysTwp) and on the township website (www.lakeofbays.on.ca).



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:

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Dorset Nurse Practitioner Station Fundraising Drive

Why Pledge?

To bring health care closer to home! The Dorset Community Partnership & Dorset Health Team is submitting a proposal to the District of Muskoka requesting that a Nurse Practitioner Station be located in Dorset. A location for the Practitioner Station has been secured and we are well on our way to backing up our proposal with financial commitments from local benefactors and individual donations from Dorset residents. Our proposal will be strengthened if we can show strong support of our community's commitment. We are not asking for a monetary donation at this time, rather a written commitment or pledge. Should our proposal be successful (announcement expected in the spring of 2014), we will follow up with you and ask for your pledged amount at the time.

How Do I Pledge?

Simply fill out the form and drop it off at:

Coldwell Banker Wiley Real Estate, Main Street,
Dorset (beside the LCBO)

Or mail it to:

The Dorset Community Partnership Fund
c/o Barb Townes, Treasurer
P.O. Box 398
Dorset ON P0A 1E0

Or email your pledge amount, along with your name and phone number to:
bjtownes@vianet.ca

You will be eligible for a tax receipt after we receive your donation.



(See page 2 for more info)

Thank you for helping us bring health care closer to home

If you have any question about the proposal for the Nurse Practitioner Station or making a pledge please contact:

Herb Hickling Dorset Health Care Team Lead 705-766-0354
Sarah Coombs Dorset Health Care Team Admin 705-766-9427

(tear here)

(tear here)

(tear here)				
NAME:	I AM PLEDGING A GIFT IN THE NAME OF:			
PHONE/E-MAIL:				
ADDRESS:				
			PLEDGE AMOUNT:	
				DATE: