

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.

## Lake of Bays Association Annual Meeting

Saturday July 9, Baysville Community Centre



Guest Speaker

Peter Sale

Past Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council

### Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka

Coffee and Exhibits at 9 a.m.  
Meeting 9:30–11 a.m.

What will our forests look like in 2050? How will a warmer and wetter climate impact water levels? Climate is changing

in Muskoka as it is changing everywhere and we must adapt to the coming changes, and support the global campaign to avert truly serious changes in climate later in this century. To adapt effectively, we must plan ahead and be proactive.

The Muskoka Watershed Council has studied the climate we are likely to see at mid-century, and assessed the impacts it will have on our environment, our infrastructure and our lives. The resulting report, titled “Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka” was released in January 2016 and Dr. Peter Sale, former Chair of The Council will be presenting the report’s highlights at the LOBA AGM. You won’t want to miss this important, interesting and informative presentation.

Please join the LOBA Board of Directors and other Lake of Bays residents at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and to browse the exhibit tables before the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.

**This is an open meeting.  
Everyone is welcome!**

### Sign Up for LOBA’s e-Newsflash on [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)

As a member of LOBA, you automatically receive our electronic Newsflash, delivered to your primary email address. If other members of your family would also like to receive LOBA news, they can now sign up on our website!

Go to [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca) and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage to add your name to our distribution list. Newsflashes go out about 12 times a year or on an as-needed basis and you can unsubscribe at any time. Give it a try.

Receiving LOBA’s Newsflash is the best way to keep up-to-date when news breaks at Lake of Bays.

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## President's Message

by Ian Beverley



Welcome back to the lake! While the winter was definitely milder than the last two years, didn't it drag on and on? Fortunately, Lake of Bays did not experience as much water and ice damage as Lake Muskoka, but the early rains in March followed several weeks of unusually cold weather and then, finally, the thaw did present some challenges for our Members. For those who experienced dock damage, please read elsewhere in this edition of Current Connection on the new MNRF permitting process. It is our understanding that repairs to existing structures will not need new permits.

LOBA members will note that the cost of everything associated with their proper-

ties is going up. Hydro cost increases are beginning to be phased in, the District budget has increased by 4% (largely as a result of OPP policing costs allocated to it), the Township budget has increased over 9% due largely to needed capital improvements and, of course, the new four-year MPAC property assessment process is in progress. Through our involvement with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (past President, Ian White, is a director of FOCA) and with our stalwart volunteers on our External Affairs Committee led by Gloria Woodside with Bill Rogers, Fraser Govan, Kathleen Black and Caroline Konarzewski, LOBA is actively engaged in the budget setting processes in seeking to ensure that the cost increases that our Members receive are carefully scrutinized before they are finalized. We are grateful for their good work.

Of course, with this mailing you will receive our annual Yearbook and this year's edition is another outstanding publication. I invite you to curl up by the fire and take a long, slow read through the excellent articles in it and in this edition of Current Connection. I'm sure you will agree that LOBA remains as important and relevant as it ever has been for Members. Please join me in thanking our many volunteers and Board of Directors for their extensive efforts in working on our behalf.

Thank you for your membership and have a good summer.

*Ian Beverley*

## Join the LOBA Team of Volunteers

The Lake of Bays Association consists of a group of volunteers who are passionate about the work they do for the lake and enjoy getting to know it and their neighbours better. If you are interested in getting involved, please call Ian White at (416) 231-9598 or (705) 789-9947, or email [ian.white@rogers.com](mailto:ian.white@rogers.com). In particular we are interested in volunteers for the following programs:

### Area Stewards Needed

We are seeking people interested in being Area Stewards in all areas of the lake, but particularly in the Delbrook/Rabbit Bay area, Muskoka Rd 117 in the Pride Marina area, South Portage Road and Dorset. Our Area Stewards deliver Welcome Packages to new residents and provide feedback to LOBA on issues and concerns of residents in their neighbourhood.

### Archives

LOBA was founded in 1927 and preserving our records is an important aspect of our work. We are looking for someone with some knowledge of record keeping (hard copy and digital) who can help us update our archives.

## 2016 Photo Contest

Sponsored by  
Aben Graphics



Aben  
graphics ltd.

The Lake of Bays Association Photo Contest is open to all members and their families for submission in the following categories:

- **Life at the Lake: people, pets, dwellings**
- **Nature: wild plants and animals**
- **Landscapes: land, water, sky**

Photos must be previously unpublished and submitted in digital format to Aben Graphics at: [info@abengraphics.com](mailto:info@abengraphics.com), before December 31, 2016. Subject line of the email should be: Lake of Bays Photo Contest. Contestants agree to the use of their photos in the LOBA yearbook, newsletter and on our website. Until further notice, we have decided to discontinue the visual arts portion of our contest.

Drop by the library this summer to see the exhibit of our 2015 winners. They will be on display in the Baysville library for the month of July and the Dwight library for the month of August. You can also see all the entries on our website. Go to [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca) and click on "gallery." Thank you to everyone who shared their fabulous photos and artwork with us last year. Keep it coming!

# Water Quality Report 2015

by Deb Cumming

The LOBA water quality program continued to focus on total phosphorus concentrations in 2015. While phosphorus is a naturally occurring element entering the lakes through precipitation, streams, overland flows and even groundwater, human activity can increase phosphorus loads and be the tipping point in increasing algal growth, which contributes to a deterioration in water quality. This may affect recreational use and property values and have a negative impact on the cold-water fishery. While phosphorus levels vary annually, as a response to natural processes related to precipitation, we are very concerned about, and sensitive to, anomalies or emerging trends that might suggest human impact.

The 2015 Water Quality Report is posted on the website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)) in its entirety and I encourage all to read it. The findings in the report can be summarized as follows:

- The 2015 data collected indicated continued excellent water quality at all sampling sites in Lake of Bays.
- Total phosphorus concentrations were characteristic of lakes with algal production and, on average, met the highest provincial standards for protection of nuisance aquatic plant growth.

While that message is comforting to all, there are lessons to be learned in the details and there was some interesting information generated by the 2015 numbers.

In 2012, we observed increased phosphorus numbers in Portage Bay and since then we have vigilantly tested there. At the time, we speculated that the elevated numbers might be as a result of local construction, and that appears to have been the case. The impacts were short term, Portage Bay phosphorous numbers have declined and our consultants at Hutchinson Environmental Sciences (HES) are advising that we can relax, as there are no ongoing concerns for Portage Bay!

In 2014, our consultants expressed con-

cern regarding an upward trend (2002 to 2014) in phosphorus concentrations in Haystack Bay and at sites that receive water from Haystack Bay. The absolute numbers were still acceptable by provincial and district standards, but upward trends are a concern because they are almost always the result of human activity. I am pleased to advise that lower phosphorus concentrations in 2015 at the identified sites have eliminated the statistical significance of the 2002–2014 trend. Nevertheless, LOBA and HES remain curious about the combination of factors that inflated phosphorus concentrations in Haystack Bay and downstream sites off both ends of Bigwin Island. HES did additional research and concluded that phosphorus loading from precipitation within the bay's watershed area contributes more significantly to the natural load in Haystack Bay than in the rest of the lake (49% as compared to 28%). As a result, the bay is especially sensitive to phosphorus loading from run off. This sensitivity impacts the sites at the east and west ends of Bigwin as Haystack Bay water mixes with the flow heading toward Baysville. This heightened sensitivity suggests that we need to exercise caution in adding to the phosphorus load in Haystack Bay, particularly in rainy years (of course, principles of conservative science suggest that we always exercise caution in adding to the phosphorus load!).

As part of its work, HES has compared our summer numbers with spring turnover numbers from the District of Muskoka. We test five times in summer months and no longer do a spring turnover sampling (largely due to the difficulty of obtaining volunteers, getting boats in the water and general weather conditions). The District's spring numbers have been highly variable over the years and do not necessarily tie in well with our numbers, which has been of some concern. So I am relieved to advise that HES has concluded that the variability in the spring numbers is probably due to the timing and intensity of spring snowmelt and that it settles out with stratification of water lev-

els and does not impact or negate our summer numbers.

The last lesson from the 2015 season is that we need to tighten up our quality control procedures. The report says, "The Lake of Bays Association water quality monitoring program provides a high-quality data set to evaluate (these) stressors and other emerging issues as they arise." And that is our goal. But this year we had an increase in the number of "bad splits," which refers to differences between the concentration levels in two samples from one site. They can be an anomaly but can also be a result of contaminated samples. We need to address this in 2016 and get the bad split numbers down by being very vigilant and consistent in our sampling practices.

The water quality monitoring program continues to work well; your hard-working volunteers produce a "high-quality long term data set" that ensures that we can evaluate stresses affecting our watershed and identify problems as they arise. **When you see them, please thank the 2015 team: Penny Thomas, Andrew and Mike Farley, Jill and Emma Turner, Michelle Tompkins and family, and Paul Fraser.**

## Lake of Bays Calendar of Events on [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)

Looking for something to do with your guests on the weekend? Don't want to miss the Baysville Walkabout? Can't remember when the 112th Annual Lake of Bays Regatta starts? Want to know when and where the local Farmers Markets are?

You can get all this information and more on [www.loba.ca/events](http://www.loba.ca/events).

If you wish to post an event on the LOBA Events Calendar, please contact Pat Sims-Eastwood at [p.sims-eastwood@outlook.com](mailto:p.sims-eastwood@outlook.com). Please include the name of the event, location, date, time and contact information.

# Electricity Pricing Update

## Excerpt from Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations E-Alert

### What is happening with seasonal customer distribution rates?

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has directed Hydro One to move to “all-fixed” distribution rates for its approximately 150,000 seasonal customers, with an eight-year phase-in starting January 1, 2016. This is the first step of the OEB’s direction which will eventually eliminate the seasonal customer class and align rates for seasonal and other year-round residential customer classes.

### How does the move to fixed distribution rates affect seasonal customers?

For seasonal customers, this will change the monthly amount of the Distribution Charge each year from 2017 to 2023 as follows:

Usage	Change in monthly distribution charge
50kWh/mo	+ \$3.75/mo
200 kWh/mo	+ \$1.94/mo
400 kWh/mo	- \$0.47/mo
700 kWh/mo	- \$4.10/mo
1100 kWh/mo	- \$9.93/mo

### How will this move to a fixed distribution rate affect my total bill in 2016?

Effective January 1, 2016, a number of changes beyond the changes to distribution rates will affect a customer’s total monthly bill. These changes include: 1) elimination of the Debt Retirement Charge for residential customers; 2) elimination of the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit; 3) introduction of the Ontario Energy Support Program charge of \$0.0011 kWh; and 4) an updated Wholesale Market Service Rate of \$0.0036/kWh.

The table below shows 2016 total bill impacts, including all the changes noted above, based on varying levels of electricity use.

### What does the distribution rate pay for?

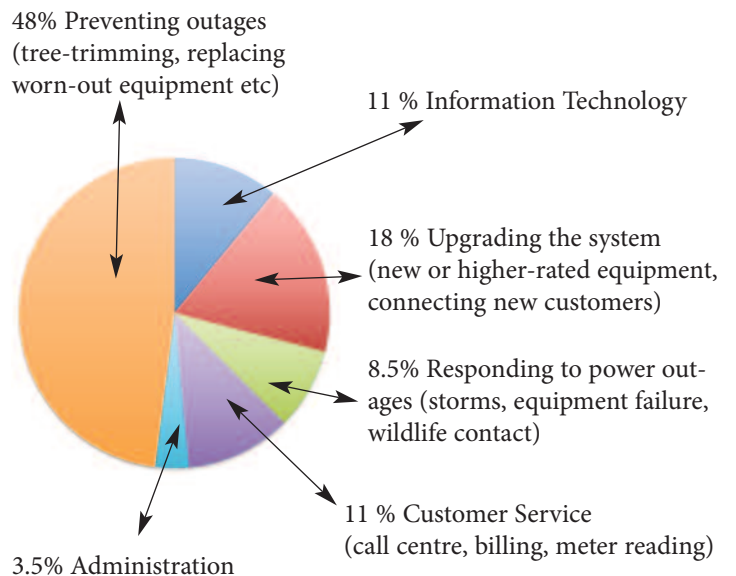
2016 Total Bill Impacts for Hydro One Seasonal Customers				
Service Type	Consumption Level	Monthly Consumption	Increase in Total Bill (\$)	Increase in Total Bill (%)
Seasonal	Low	50 kWh	\$8.20	19.3%
	Typical	400 kWh	\$13.59	11.3%
	High	1,100 kWh	\$ 24.39	8.8%

### How does my total bill compare to the bill of a customer in a year-round rate class who consumes the same amount of electricity?

Comparison of Total Monthly Bill by Service Type, 2016 (\$, including HST)*			
Service Type			
Monthly Consumption (kWh)	R1	R2	Seasonal
50	\$45.38	\$59.55	\$50.73
400	\$110.47	\$130.96	\$134.41
1,100	\$240.65	\$273.78	\$301.79

\*Based on no Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) credit, time-of-use pricing, and a consumption pattern of 64% off peak, 18% mid peak, and 18% on peak.

### What does the distribution rate pay for?



For more detail on Hydro One’s 2016 Distribution Rate Changes for Seasonal Customers please read the Electricity Pricing bulletin on LOBA’s website ([loba.ca](http://loba.ca)) under “Hot Topics.” Or visit the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations website ([foca.on.ca](http://foca.on.ca)).

# Electricity Pricing Update

*continued*

## Tips and Tools for Managing Your Electricity Usage

With no relief in sight from the incredibly high cost of electricity, monitoring your usage is one of the best ways to manage consumption. Go to [www.hydroone.com](http://www.hydroone.com) and sign up for My Account to:

- Get up-to-date tracking of your current Time-Of-Use (TOU) electricity use;
- Get information about your billing history;
- Change your billing frequency or get bills online.

As a Hydro One customer you may want to:

- Sign up for Hydro One Outage Notification to receive a TEXT, or EMAIL notification if your power goes out, the estimated time of restoration, and when your power is restored!
- Call Hydro One's power outage hotline 1-800-434-1235 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) if your power has gone out or you're having trouble with your electricity.

## Hydro One to Invest \$20 Million in the District of Muskoka and Parry Sound

Hydro One will invest \$20 million this year in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound to improve reliability and reduce tree-related outages. Trees represent the single largest cause of power outages in this densely wooded area. The investment includes line clearing, annual maintenance and upgrades to more than 1,000 kilometres of lines on Hydro One's electricity distribution system. Forestry work is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. More than 100 forestry staff will remove or trim trees and brush that is interfering, or has the potential to interfere with, power lines and cause outages. To reduce the impact on traffic and business during the busy summer months and to improve efficiency, lines staff will conduct annual maintenance work of replacing end-of-life or damaged distribution equipment and poles at the same time that the forestry work is being done. Steps are being taken to complete this work in a manner that creates the least possible disruption to customers. Property owners with trees marked for removal on their property have been notified by mail.

## Property Assessment

by Fraser Govan

2016 is a property reassessment year. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), an agency of the Province, will be sending out an updated assessed value notice to you for your property (which will be used to determine your taxes for the next four years). Assessment increases are phased-in over four years

for all property types. A decrease in assessment is applied immediately. The Current Value Assessment (CVA) will be the price your property would likely sell for on January 1, 2016.

For the big four Muskoka lakes including Lake of Bays, the preliminary data for waterfront property suggests an average assessment increase of 9.57% from 2012 to 2016.

Property Assessment Notices (PAN's) for Muskoka are scheduled to be issued commencing July 11, 2016. This is about two months earlier than previous updates.

Should you wish to challenge your Assessment, you will only have 120 days to file a Request For Reconsideration (RfR). The cut-off date will be November 8, 2016. In previous updates the cut-off date was usually March 31 of the following year. A new MPAC web portal to your property details will be available when you receive your updated PAN.

This earlier cut-off date means that if you decide to challenge your MPAC assessment, you will likely want to do your research this summer after receiving your PAN to develop your "rationale" for submitting your RfR. If MPAC denies your RfR, then you can appeal to the Assessment Review Board (ARB) for the Province of Ontario. ARB hearings will likely commence in the winter of 2017.

## Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF)

### "Administrator" Job Opening

The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation is looking to fill this new position and seeks applications from interested candidates. The Administrator position reports to the volunteer LBHF President and works closely with other volunteer Board members who may chair Committees. The position entails an average of 20 hours work per month, although that number will rise in July and August and decline in winter months. Priorities for time allocation will be set by the President, in discussion with the Administrator.

The skills and experience relevant to this position include prior work as an administrative assistant, good written and spoken communications abilities, experience with nature and conservation, solid computer skills, and a strong customer service approach to receiving and responding to inquiries. Knowledge of Lake of Bays is an asset. Location is flexible.

This position is a part-time contract paying \$25.00/hour and does not include benefits. If interested, please send an e-mail and qualifications by June 17th, to [info@lakeof-baysheritage.ca](mailto:info@lakeof-baysheritage.ca)

## Water Levels

It was another soggy spring at Lake of Bays, with water levels in April 2016 rising to just slightly below the levels reached in the spring of 2013. Luckily the ice went out gently the last week of April and while there was some dock damage, LOBA did not receive nearly the number of reports of damage as we did in 2013. Check out the photos of the high water levels on our website photo gallery ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)).

Our downstream neighbours on the Muskoka Lakes were not as fortunate, and they have established a Water Levels Task Force to lobby the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for changes (both short term and long term) to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP). The MRWMP is the provincial agreement that governs the management of the dam system on the Muskoka River system under the auspices of the MNRF. The MRWMP was last updated in 2006 and was due to be reviewed in 2016, however the province indicated that the review would be deferred for five years. At their meeting on April 18th, District of Muskoka Council passed a resolution to request the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP (to be completed by 2021) so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property, and that the provincial public consultation include all municipalities and stakeholders in the Muskoka Watershed. The Lake of Bays Association strongly supports this request for a review and has written the MNRF requesting participation in any review process that is undertaken.

The impacts of climate change go beyond the spring flooding that we have been experiencing and experts predict that it will result in hotter, drier summers and lower than normal summer lake levels. This will affect boaters, and will result in the drying of many of Muskoka's many fragile wetlands, which play an important role in the maintenance of wildlife and water quality. It is time to look at the MRWMP in light of the extreme weather that is becoming our "new normal" in Muskoka.



*Water levels in April 2016 (top) were only slightly lower than in April 2013 (bottom). Photos by Pat Sims-Eastwood*

## Please Share the Road!

### A message to cars, ATV's, cyclists and pedestrians...

As traffic on our roads increases during the busy summer months we encourage all users to be aware and share the road. This is the first summer of the new ATV By-law permitting ATV's/ORV's (off-road vehicles) on all township roads (between May 1 until December 31). LOBA met with the Lake of Bays ATV Club this spring and will endeavor to keep the communication channels open so that any concerns regarding implementation of the new ATV By-law can be dealt with in a proactive and cooperative way. It is our understanding that roads where ATV's are not permitted are signed accordingly. Additional roads requesting exclusion from the By-law will be reviewed on an annual basis (contact the Township Clerk, Carrie Sykes for more information at 705-635-2272).

## Latest News on Permits for Dock Work

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has clarified the new requirement for an MNRF work permit for structures built over the water that are more than 15 square metres (161 square feet).

As of May 2016, the MNRF had advised that “repairs to existing structures on shore lands do not require occupational authority from the MNRF provided that the repairs do not add more than 15 square metres to the size of the structure. This includes cosmetic and structural repairs. If an entire structure is to be replaced, occupational authority in the form of a MNRF Land Use Permit (LUP) is required.”

This means that if you are repairing an existing structure (any size) and are adding not more than 15 square metres to an existing structure under repair you do not require a permit from the MNRF.

If you are installing a new structure greater than 15 square metres or replacing a structure greater than 15 square metres (and not doing repairs) you will require a Land Use Permit (LUP) from the MNRF.

This applies to all docks (including floating docks), boat houses and boat ports. It does NOT apply to non-residential property, dwellings/bunkies over the water and two storey structures. These structures require MNRF approval regardless of whether you are repairing or increasing the size.

Please note that within the Township of Lake of Bays, regardless of which category you fall under you may require a Development Permit. If the structure is greater than 10 square metres you will require a building permit.

For information about Development Permits and Building Permits, please contact, Stephen Watson, TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS Director of Building/By-law Services. Tel: (705) 635-2272 x 225 Toll Free: 1-877-566-0005, E-mail: [swatson@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:swatson@lakeofbays.on.ca) Website: [www.lakeofbays.on.ca](http://www.lakeofbays.on.ca).

If you have any questions about the MNRF requirements please contact them at **MNR Approval (MNRF):** [MNR.APPROVAL@ontario.ca](mailto:MNR.APPROVAL@ontario.ca)

## New Depth Map of Lake of Bays

A new, updated depth map of Lake of Bays is now complete and available for purchase. Greg Betteridge, a recently retired trout biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Algonquin Provincial Park, undertook this ambitious project in cooperation with Jeff McMurtrie of Jeff's Map ([jeffsmap.com](http://jeffsmap.com)).

### Why Now?

For 50 years, the Canadian Hydrographic Services Chart 6023, created from the data collected in 1963 to 1965 by Mr. H. W. Shaw of Dayton, Ohio, has served as the only Lake of Bays depth map. All other depth maps of the lake, configured in various styles and colour combinations, have used the same old data set. A lot of hard work went into creating the 1965 chart, but there are limitations to it, as it only used a few thousand data points. This resulted in widely spaced transects and long shoreline gaps. From May 26 to July 7, 2015 one hundred hours was spent on the water driving all 206 kilometres (128 miles) of shoreline and plotting more than 330,000 GPS data points, yielding a much different looking map.

### How is this new map different and what makes it better?

For the first time ever, precise and detailed 10 foot interval depth contours, plus ‘spot’ peak and troughs, are revealed for Lake of Bays, Paint Lake and the Oxtongue River. All roads, laneways, radio and cell towers, marinas, public boat launches, navigation aids and hazards, local names and historical features, such as the sites of former lodges and camps, are identified. The map is printed on the best quality lightweight, waterproof and tear resistant synthetic paper. It is 36 inches square (915 mm) and packed to unroll flat, suitable for framing or use on the lake.

### The Bottom Line

The price of the map is \$50 plus 13% HST (total \$56.50 Cdn) cash, cheque or credit card. You may order the map online from [jeffsmap.com](http://jeffsmap.com), by emailing Greg Betteridge at [greg081@gmail.com](mailto:greg081@gmail.com), or by phoning Greg at 705-635-2399. He will personally deliver the map to your Lake of Bays area residence at no cost. Greg will also be at the LOBA AGM on July 9th in Baysville with maps available for purchase.

## A Message from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare

A strong health care system involves many partners working together to deliver the very best in patient care. The provincial health care system is poised for significant transformation as the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care looks to realign primary and community care and address gaps with how health care services are planned and managed across the province. The fundamental objective is to put patients first through more effective integration of services.

We are an essential component of an integrated local health system. We have to work collaboratively with our partners to ensure our communities have access to safe, high-quality, sustainable care. Now more than ever, change is inevitable. But there is one thing that never changes here in Muskoka, and that is the need for your continued support. Whether you're a cottager, a visitor or a year-round resident, we're here to ensure you get the very best care. Unfortunately, the province does not provide money for new equipment and technology. Our hospitals rely heavily on our communities and the incredible support of both of our foundations to replace aging equipment and infrastructure, and to keep pace with technology. Millions of dollars are required annually, and the Huntsville Hospital Foundation and the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital needs this support now more than ever so we can continue to put patients first.

To all of you who have and continue to donate to the hospitals, my sincerest thanks for your support.

Natalie Bubela, Chief Executive Officer

## Last Chance to Order your Property Report

Last summer, another 1,350 Love Your Lake property surveys were completed for a total of 2,100 surveys over two seasons, which means that the entire lake (except for the river into Baysville) has been surveyed. The shoreline of each property was assessed for development, vegetation and habitat and this information was used to create a unique and tailored shoreline property report for each property owner. Your property report contains a summary of the features observed on your property, with voluntary recommended actions you can take to protect or restore your shoreline. It also explains how those actions can positively contribute to the health of Lake of Bays. The data collected during the shoreline surveys and the resulting reports are not used for any regulatory purposes. The goal of Love Your Lake is to educate and engage waterfront property owners to contribute to a cleaner, healthier lake for wildlife and future generations.



If your property was surveyed last summer, you will have received a letter from Love Your Lake with your individual SURVEY CODE so that you can order your personalized, confidential property report electronically (free) or by mail (\$20). To order your report online, go to [www.loveyourlake.ca](http://www.loveyourlake.ca), click on "Order your report" and enter your SURVEY CODE.

Please note that the properties on Little Trading Bay were surveyed last summer but because they are not within the District of Muskoka they did not have mailing addresses for them and these letters (with the Survey Code) were to be delivered by hand in May.

If you need assistance ordering your report, or if your property was surveyed in 2014 and you no longer have your SURVEY CODE but still wish to order your property report, please contact Rebecca Willison at the Muskoka Watershed Council, [info@muskokawatershed.org](mailto:info@muskokawatershed.org), (705) 646-0111.

## How to Use the New Dorset Health Hub

The Dorset Health Hub looks forward to welcoming our summer guests and is getting ready for its first summer. We are expecting an increase in use of the hub over the summer months and we want to insure that we provide the right information in a timely manner so that cottagers can make the best decision about when to access the Hub.

As a community health care hub with limited resources we operate differently than a walk-in clinic. We are able to serve patients who are both registered to us and those who are not. Although we are not a walk-in clinic we are able to provide timely access to care for unexpected illnesses/injuries. We do this by keeping appointment slots available that can be used the same day or the next day when someone is ill. We ask that you call to request an appointment. By asking patients to call first we ensure that you do not have a lengthy wait time in our waiting room.

We would also like residents and visitors to know that we are not an emergency room or the replacement for a hospital. We hope that we are able to prevent some emergency room visits where applicable (for unexpected illnesses/injuries such as sore throat, ear infection, eye infection, cuts, scrapes, rashes, urinary tract infections) **but when experiencing a life threatening injury or illness you should always call 911.** As a Primary Care Office, we simply do not have the mandate, staff or facilities to operate as an emergency room.

Our goal is to provide accessible primary care to our residents and seasonal visitors. Please share this information with others and help us spread the word on *how to use the hub*.

**The Health Hub is located at 1096 Main Street in Dorset (south of the bridge). For more information, hours of operation or to book an appointment, please call (705) 766-0866.**

## Nature Walks

Sat. July 9 and 23 and Tues. Aug. 9 and Sun. Aug. 21

A naturalist will lead the group through the 160-acre property at Marsh's Falls, which has been protected by the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation. Every walk leads to new discoveries and a chance to learn about the plants and critters that inhabit this property. All of the walks will begin at 11:30 a.m. and finish by 1:00 p.m. Look for more information at [www.lakeof-baysheritage.ca](http://www.lakeof-baysheritage.ca).

## Silent Boat Rally

An eco-tour of the Lower Oxtongue River

Saturday July 30, 9 am

We launch our canoes, kayaks and paddleboards below Marsh's Falls and paddle to the mouth of the river before returning to the falls for lunch. This is an 8 kilometre route of easy paddling in the most beautiful setting in the township. Register online at [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca).



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