

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.

Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka

A presentation by Dr. Peter Sale, Past Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council

Impacts on our lakes & rivers

Greater risk of algal blooms

Summer conditions will be more favorable for algal growth

Changed hydrology may enhance internal loading of nutrients

We currently lack data that might help predict where and when blooms most likely

Nor are there easy remedies

We need better understanding of how algae in our lakes will behave

Winnipeg algal scum

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. At the LOBA annual meeting in July, Dr. Peter Sale presented the highlights of the resulting report, "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka," including the 15 recommendations for action by provincial agencies, district and municipal governments, local businesses, community groups and individuals in Muskoka. LOBA will be exploring ways we can help make some of the report's recommendations actionable. If you missed Peter Sale's presentation the highlights are available on the District of Muskoka website at: <https://muskoka.civicweb.net/document/27580>

Our planet's climate is changing and Muskoka needs to adapt. If you have children in school today, they could have children in school at mid-century. It's not a long way into the future.

Cathy Nystrom

2016 Betty Day Award Winner



Cathy Nystrom was presented with the Betty Day Award by Membership Chair Jim Metcalfe at the LOBA AGM on July 9th in Baysville.

Congratulations to Cathy Nystrom, the 2016 recipient of the Betty Day Award. Cathy, whose grandmother came to Seabreeze Road in 1907, has been the local Area Steward for LOBA for over 13 years. A full time resident of Lake of Bays, Cathy has also been a volunteer with the Huntsville Hospice, the Huntsville Animal Shelter, the Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Foundation, Stewart Memorial Church and Seabreeze Community Church.

The Betty Day Award celebrates LOBA's greatest resource—our volunteers. Betty Day was LOBA's president in 1992 when she passed away suddenly from cancer. The award is presented annually to a LOBA member whose volunteer activities have significantly furthered the goals of the Association. Cathy Nystrom's tremendous support of "all things Lake of Bays" makes her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Advertise in the 2017 Yearbook 10 % Discount on ads paid for by December 31st

The 2017 Advertising Rate Card and Order form are now on the website www.loba.ca. Place your order now and pay by December 31st to receive the discount. You can place your order online or contact our Advertising Manger, Bryan Dearsley for more information at bdearsley@live.ca, (705) 984-3082.

Save the Date

Lake of Bays Association Winter Meeting
Sat. January 21, 2017, 10:30 a.m.–noon
Bethune United Church, Baysville
This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.
Look for the agenda on www.loba.ca soon.

President's Message

by Ian Beverley



Well, it had to end sometime. Can anyone remember a better summer weather-wise? Even now (Thanksgiving weekend) the lake is still “swimmable” for the bold (which does not include me!).

This Current Connection highlights many of our activities over the summer. Here are a few that deserve your support:

- **Invasive Species**—This year our Environment Chair, Caroline Konarzewski, started a team to identify and locate invasive plant species and then take careful steps to remove or isolate them. As you have read in her yearbook article (Space Invaders—page 20) and Newsflash bulletins, some of the plants that are migrating into our area can be toxic and incredibly damaging. Phragmites, Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard are of particular concern. If these plants gain a solid foothold in our area the adverse effects may be profound. If you are interested in being part of Caroline's Invasive Species Team next year, see the Shout Out to Our Volunteers on page 5 for Caroline's contact information. Your participation is welcome.
- **LBHF Property Purchase**—As announced in Judith Mill's article on

page 7, the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF) has acquired another property on the Oxtongue River (LBHF is a sister organization to LOBA and this purchase was a LBHF initiative, not LOBA's). This recent land acquisition means that 170 acres or approximately 55% of the Lower Oxtongue River shoreline is now protected from further development. If you have had the opportunity to attend the Silent Boat Rally in recent years (see the photo on page 6), you will know that the river has a rich geologic history (being part of glacial Lake Algonquin), was an important travel route to the Algonquin hunting lands for First Nations people and is an environmentally sensitive area for flora and fauna. When you complete your Membership Renewal form, you will see an option to make a contribution to LBHF. Please consider donating to enable the Foundation to continue its conservation work.

- **Climate Change**—We are in the early stage of discussions with the Muskoka Watershed Council to discuss how LOBA can work with the Council to develop programs to assist it in measuring and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change that are anticipated for Lake of Bays over the next few decades. More to come on this soon.
- **Corporate Matters**—In 2010, the Province passed a new corporate statute (that is not yet law) that will apply to non-profit organizations like LOBA. To prepare for this change, we have begun a process to update our corporate by-laws to enable LOBA to take advantage of the new provisions of the law (for example, Board meetings by telephone) and generally to modernize and make our processes more workable in the reality of life today. Ultimately, these new by-laws will be presented to members for final confirmation, likely at our Annual General Meeting next summer.

As always, it is a privilege to be part of an organization like LOBA, which has so

many dedicated volunteers and members. Thank you for your continued support and work and have a warm and safe winter.

Ian Beverley



LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

**photo
contest**
SHOW US
YOUR STUFF

Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and families:

Your photos must be previously unpublished and sent in high resolution, digital format to Aben Graphics: info@abengraphics.com before December 31, 2016 (subject line of email, Lake of Bays Photo Contest), directed to one of the categories below (one per category). Contestants agree to the use of their photos in the Lake of Bays Association yearbook, newsletter, website and Facebook.

CATEGORIES

Life at the Lake: People, pets and dwellings

Nature: Wild plants and animals

Landscape: Land, water and sky



DEADLINE DEC. 31, 2016

Canada Geese—Mighty Majestics or Cottage Curse!

Buffering the Curse to Scoop Less Poop

by Caroline Konarzewski, Environment Chair

The Upside...

Canada Geese are large, impressive birds sometimes reaching 9 kg (almost 20 lbs). They are beautiful to look at, live up to 24 years, build nests that are up to 4 feet across and mate for life.

The newly hatched goslings are cute as buttons and can swim, dive and eat on their own within a day or two of hatching. The adult geese are excellent parents and very protective of their goslings.

Although the goslings grow quickly it takes a couple of months until they are strong enough to fly. They continue to grow in strength so that by the fall they are ready to migrate long distances before the really cold winter weather arrives.

The Downside...

In order to grow strong and healthy they eat up to four pounds of grass per day and then promptly leave behind two pounds of fecal matter! That's a lot of goose poop! Okay, so its part of Mother Nature's plan to leave some natural fertilizer behind to ensure that there will be more fresh, healthy blades of grass to eat in another seven to ten days, but it sure can make things unpleasant for us humans.

Canada Geese were once in danger of being hunted into extinction but they have rapidly learned to thrive under the conditions that human development provides... like waterfront cottage lawns! This not only makes a mess that takes time to clean up but all that poop is associated with elevated bacteria levels in the lake, as well as an increased incidence of swimmer's itch and other health issues.

All those geese can be a safety hazard, too, and they can damage property. They can be aggressive towards humans, especially when defending their nesting territory and their young.

The Reason...

Canada Geese think we have crafted our waterfront properties just for them. I guess we can't blame them. We are the



If Canada geese find your grass attractive, try reducing your lawn size and blocking access points with shrubbery and thick vegetation.

perfect hosts. We spread out a feast of healthy, succulent grass right in front of them, surround it with convenient, sheltered nesting areas, all the while providing the protection of clear sightlines to detect predators, along with quick, easy access back to the safety of water when danger approaches. Aren't we nice?

The Solution...

The best way to prevent Canada Geese from barging in and turning into the guests that wouldn't leave is to make your place as unattractive to them as possible. So what is it that you could change?

- Try to make your property less visible from the water. Canada Geese avoid feeding, nesting and gathering in areas where tall vegetation blocks their view of the surrounding area and their escape routes.
- Plant native shrubs and flowering plants along your shoreline. Allow them to grow to at least 60 cm high and to become dense enough to block the view of the geese. The experts say that this should be at least seven metres deep, but even one to two metres, especially if the foliage is dense, is better than nothing.
- Geese love the convenience of a cleared straight path so plant a narrow S-shaped path.

- Geese seem to like Kentucky blue grass so, in those areas where you want to keep some lawn, it might be helpful to consider using native rye and fescue grasses that they find less palatable.
- Boulders over 60 cm (2 feet) in diameter can be placed along the shoreline to limit water access by making it much more difficult for geese to navigate—especially by the non-flying youngsters. If the youngsters can't get there, the parents won't go there either.

The Benefits...

If you make your waterfront property less hospitable to Canada Geese they will move on to other locations. You will have less poop to scoop, the goose population will be reduced, the water quality of the lake will be better and you can sleep well knowing that you helped appropriately to do all that.

Where to Start with Shoreline Planting

Thinking of doing some planting along your shoreline? Don't know where to begin? What should you plant? What is invasive and what's not? Can native plants still be attractive? It's so confusing!

continued on page 8

Planning and Development Committee Update

Lake of Bays Township Official Plan Amendments—Back Lot Issue

LOBA is very satisfied with the new Lake of Bays Township Official Plan, however, many of our members remain very concerned with the Township's proposal to reduce the required size of waterfront back lots to seven acres from 10 for environmental and land use planning reasons.

LOBA members rely on Council to respect the Township's planning regulations and development standards around the lake and in the rural areas. Protecting the environment is of the utmost importance and reductions in development standards should not be implemented without some very good reasons and careful analysis.

The proposal to reduce the minimum required lot size for development on waterfront back lots is contrary to the Provincial Policy Statement that directs new growth and development to areas that are already developed, not widely dispersed in locations that cannot be reasonably provided with cost effective community services and that rely on ground water wells and septic tanks.

LOBA raised its concerns about back lots to the Township and the District of Muskoka, which is the approval authority for the Official Plan. Planning staff at both the local and district levels also opposed the proposed back lot area reductions for planning and environmental reasons. In addition, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recorded a material objection to this initiative.

Despite the concerns raised, District Council approved the Official Plan including the contentious sections on back lot development. It is understood that District's political support was based on the practice of supporting decisions of individual townships. It appears that Township Council may have believed that relaxing development standards in the Township's waterfront back lots would stimulate building and support economic development while creating less expensive housing options. But no evidence to support this was provided. In addition, Council did not demonstrate that there was a demand for reduced lot sizes for back lot development.

This District approval left LOBA with two options:

1. To accept the reduction in Waterfront Back Lot areas
2. To consider an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board

As our members were concerned about this issue and the important environmental and land use planning principles involved, LOBA decided to investigate the viability of an appeal. A specialist lawyer and a professional land use planner were engaged to provide a preliminary opinion on the feasibility and desirability of proceeding with an appeal.

Following receipt of our lawyer's opinion, a formal appeal was filed to the Ontario Municipal Board. Notice of this action was presented to our members at our Annual General Meeting on July 9, 2016. The Province of Ontario did not formally appeal the District's decision but its objection to the back lot initiative, made through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, is on the record and

the professional planners working at the Ministry will be summoned by LOBA to any hearing.

At this point it is anticipated that a prehearing conference will be held to scope the issues and to enable a procedural order for the hearing. We understand this preliminary conference may not occur until next spring. At the AGM, members were assured that LOBA has measures in place to monitor the appeal process closely so that costs incurred are reasonable and prudent. We will advise members of any additional information, as it becomes known. LOBA's purpose is to promote a clean, healthy and natural environment and a well-served community. We believe this proposed change is both an unjustified risk to the environment and poor planning for delivering services to the community.

It's Time to Renew...

EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE PRIZES for payments received by DECEMBER 9th!

An invoice for your 2017 Lake of Bays Association membership is enclosed with this issue of Current Connection. Thanks to your continuing support, the Association remains in a strong financial position and is able to fulfill its mandate "to promote a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays." Your prompt payment is deeply appreciated.

If your membership renewal is **received by December 9th**, then your name will be entered in a draw for these *fabulous prizes...*

- *Golf at Bigwin Island Golf Club—golf package for four valued at \$840*
- *Old Mill Marina—\$125 Gift Certificate for gas or any in-store item*
- *Rafters (Baysville or Dorset store)—\$100 Gift Certificate*
- *Oxtongue Craft Cabin & Gallery—\$50 Gift Certificate*
- *Lake of Bays Brewing Company—\$40 Gift Certificate*

Thank you to these local businesses for supporting our 2017 membership drive!

Don't wait. Renew today! Pay by mail (cheque or credit card) or pay online by going to www.loba.ca and clicking on RENEW. New members should choose JOIN.

Questions about your membership? Please contact Beverley Govan at (705) 767-3395 or email her at info@loba.ca.

Planning and Development Committee Update

Potential Marina Expansions

Two marinas on Lake of Bays have recently requested in August that site-specific by-law amendments allow an increase in the number of docks and associated mooring facilities they permit. Both applications have been deferred by Council to allow the applicants additional time to modify their proposals. Nevertheless you should be aware of potential changes on the marina front and associated impacts on both road and boat safety.

Port Cunnington Marina wants to increase the number of slips to 57 from 23 and to create a parking lot for 57 vehicles. The intended market for these boat slips and parking spaces are local island property owners without mainland based docks or parking spots. Waterfront properties on Bigwin Island that predate recent development by Eagle Landing's operations do not have parking privileges with Eagle Landing Co. at their mainland dock and parking area. Township residents without waterfront lots may also want to have a guarantee parking spot and a boat slip at this marina.

Residents on Port Cunnington Road have formed a ratepayers association to formally address their concerns about the size of this development, the effects of increased boat traffic on the Bigwin channel and increased traffic on Port Cunnington Road. This new association is currently working with Dave Smith of the Port Cunnington Marina to develop a comprehensive site plan to coordinate the plans for Port Cunnington Marina, Bigwin Island and Norway Point and thereby effectively address all road and boat traffic issues and safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and patrons of the marina. In justifying the need for a comprehensive development plan, the Port Cunnington Rate Payers Association cited the 1995 and 2003 Ontario

Municipal Board ruling that directed the main access to Bigwin Island was to be from Norway Point.

Haystack Bay Marina also proposes to increase the number of existing docking and mooring facilities on its two small waterfront properties. Seven current docks are to be consolidated into five with three of them having a length of 53.34 metres, 33.34 metres longer than the 20 metres that are currently permitted. Haystack Bay now has 21 slips but as many as 64 could be made available if the docks are extended. The marina owners are hoping to expand their boat rental operations. No overnight parking will be permitted. The Port Cunnington Rate Payers Association has also expressed concerns over the impact of increased boat and road and expanded parking facilities on public safety in this location.

LOBA has expressed an interest in both files at Council meetings as a matter of public record and attended an Open House meeting hosted by Dave Smith at the Port Cunnington Marina in August. We will continue to monitor the progress of these applications and report any significant happenings through our Current Connection newsletters and via Newsflash on our website www.loba.ca.

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

2016 Water Testing Team—This was the year to do water quality testing! Beautiful mornings on the lake, no rain, minimal wind—just Lake of Bays at its finest. We had a great team of testers—a nice mix of seasoned veterans and new participants, cottagers and full-timers. I know that all LOBA members join me in thanking the team for their commitment and their dedication. The sampling itself involves a couple of hours five times over the course of the season with training time on top of that. So please give a standing round of applause to: **Emma and Jill Turner, Penny Thomas, Paul Fraser, Don Eastwood and Thomas Karjala.**

This group was a dream team of volunteers. We all do this work because we love the lake and care about its health and its future. Working with such an enthusiastic, energetic, capable and positive group of people made this a fun summer of water quality sampling for me. On behalf of Lake of Bays, LOBA and its membership (especially me!), I would like to thank the 2016 H2O Testing Team!

Deb Cumming, Water Quality Testing Coordinator

For information on becoming a Water Quality Tester, please contact Deb Cumming at dacumming75@gmail.com.

Invasive Species Team—Many thanks to the following volunteers for their help getting the Invasive Species Team off the ground: **Liz Armstrong, Ian Beverly, Mark Mclean, James Eyres, Mary Ann Peden, Michael Peppard, Arlie Singer, Carla Svendsen and Laura Tyrrell.** The team is learning to identify and report invasive species they find around the lake. If you would like to join the team, please contact Caroline Konarzewski at caromike@gmail.com, (705) 788-0395.

Area Stewards—Thank you to the 40 Area Stewards who visited their neighbours this summer to deliver Welcome Packages to new property owners and to listen to the issues and concerns of Lake of Bays residents. There are too many to name here but the Area Stewards are listed on page 75 of the 2016 Yearbook. Thank you for doing such a great job of keeping the Association in touch with the community we serve. It's a big lake and the more Area Stewards we have, the easier the job will be for everyone. If you are interested in becoming an Area Steward, or assisting an existing Area Steward in your neighbourhood, please contact Linda Robinson at lindaarobinson@gmail.com, (905) 889-4505.

Expect the Unexpected When It Comes to Lake Levels in the Future

by Ian White, LOBA Past President and FOCA Director

In the summer of 2012 the lake level dropped continuously throughout the hot dry summer. By August many boats sustained damage at their docks or while cruising the lake. Then, less than a year later, in April 2013, we were experiencing very high lake levels at the time of spring breakup, and many docks and boathouses were damaged or destroyed.

This spring high water levels returned, nearly to the level of 2013, and many waterfront structures sustained serious damage. Climate change has been blamed as the reason for these more frequent and more extreme fluctuations in water level. Higher highs and lower lows would appear to be the new normal.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) is responsible for administering the operation of 29 of the 42 dams in the Muskoka River Watershed through the Muskoka Watershed Management Plan. This August, MNR arranged a meeting with representatives from LOBA and the Muskoka Lakes Association to discuss the events leading up to this year's flooding, with data illustrating the ranges and targets for the lake levels of the four largest Muskoka lakes throughout the year. Explanations were given for the Ministry's actions during the late-winter and spring period. The repercussions of alternate courses of action were discussed. Drawing lake levels lower in winter could starve wetlands of needed water, destroy lake trout spawning areas and cause water shortages and low water levels as extended dry summers become more common.

The Ministry explained that the dams, some of which are

over 100 years old, were not constructed to control flooding. Muskoka is blessed with the granite rocks of the Precambrian Shield that have no water retention ability, so water tends to run down the watershed at great speed. If it rains when the ground is still frozen and the snow pack is deep and saturated, a lot of water enters the lakes. Even with dams operating wide open, this volume of water cannot run out of lakes as fast as it enters them as the draining rivers are incapable of conveying it. The result is a rapid rise in lake levels, as much as 30 cm in a 24-hour period.

The concept can be difficult for long-time residents to understand. Many ask "Why has this never happened before in my lifetime, and now twice in three years?" In September, a group of property owners on the big three lakes of Muskoka launched a class-action suit against MNR over its operation of the water-control structures, seeking \$900 million in damages, claiming that the MNR failed to adequately control the lakes' water levels.

Queen's Park is late in updating the watershed management plan, which was due this year, because it is waiting for the passing of related legislation. The Lake of Bays Association, the Township of Lake of Bays, the District of Muskoka and the Muskoka Lakes Association have all formally requested that the Muskoka River Management Plan be reviewed immediately. We will remain vigilant to ensure that the review takes place as soon as the related legislation is passed.

If you are planning any repairs, replacement or new structures at the water's edge, you are well advised to plan for wider variations in lake levels in the future.

2016–2017 Board of Directors

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Director	Bruce MacLellan	bmaclellan@envionicspr.com
Director	Don Macintosh	don.macintosh@dentons.com
Director	Marcia Watt	mwatt@tsc.on.ca

Meet Our New Board Member...

Don Macintosh

Don has grown up in Muskoka, both as a cottager and as a graduate of Bracebridge High School. Don's wife, Sarah Farley is a third generation cottager on Lake of Bays. In 2012 Don and Sarah purchased their own cottage on Ten Mile Bay and enjoy spending time at the lake on weekends and holidays. Don is a lawyer with Dentons Canada LLP and has a strong background in corporate governance. He has been an advisor to many non-profit organizations over his 30-year career and will be assisting LOBA with, among other things, the task of updating our bylaws. Welcome to the Board Don!

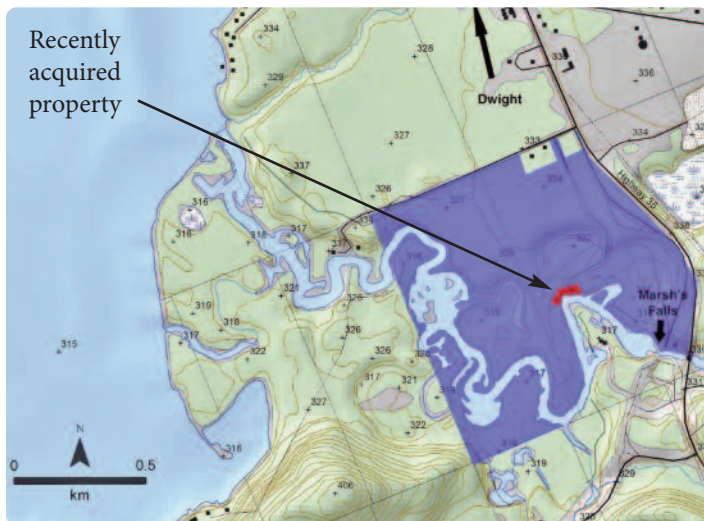
Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation

Secures Additional Property on the Lower Oxtongue River

by Judith Mills, LBHF

LBHF is excited to announce the purchase of a comparatively small riverfront property surrounded by existing LBHF land on the Lower Oxtongue River that had been accessible by a long right-of-way from Sale Road to the north. Additionally, the owner had approval to construct a 1,200 square foot building. The map below shows the current LBHF property in blue and the new property in orange and reflects how important the acquisition of this new parcel is to the ecological integrity of the entire property.

LBHF currently owns and is preserving 170 acres of mature wooded land as well as 6.5 kilometres of shoreline on the two sides of the river. The entire area protected represents approximately 55 per cent of the Lower Oxtongue total shoreline. The access road to the newly purchased property gave easy access to trespassers on snowmobiles and ATVs—a challenge in preserving the various habitats. The right-of-way can now be permanently closed and reforested. This year many people experienced the Marsh's Falls property on guided nature walks and through species identification programs. Plans are under way to map and mark walking trails throughout the property for this purpose and the Irwin Memorial School in Dwight intends to use the property for nature study programs.



In the interest of providing public access to Marsh's Falls, LBHF plans to lease the land at the top of the falls to the Township of Lake of Bays as a publicly accessible park. Meetings have taken place and a site for the park has been agreed upon. But the Ministry of Transportation has found that the driveway which currently leads to the falls is not a safe public access from Highway 35.

LBHF leads a number of scheduled guided walks and some organizations have made arrangements to schedule a nature walk or guided paddle on the river for groups of their members. Information about events is available by contacting info@lakeofbaysheritage.ca. For liability reasons, the Foundation is not able

to provide general access to the property by road or boat because of the limited number of volunteers available to accompany visitors. For canoeists paddling the entire Oxtongue River, the original native portage through the LBHF property has been re-established and is marked with portage signs. Many people enjoy the river and the falls by canoe or kayak access from Dwight Beach.

Information about events at the falls is available by contacting info@lakeofbaysheritage.ca or by visiting our website at <http://lakeofbaysheritage.ca/newsevents/events>, Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation Facebook page or following us on twitter @LoBHeritage.

LBHF is grateful to their many Life Members and other donors whose financial support over the years made this land acquisition possible. Two families on the lake generously donated \$50,000 each to enable the recent purchase with the remainder of approximately \$170,000 funded by a vendor take back mortgage. The amount outstanding on the Marsh's Falls purchase is now approximately \$50,000 or 25 percent of the original mortgage arranged in 2014. Now fundraising is needed to retire a total obligation of \$220,000 and to replenish our land conservation fund. We call on all community members to make a contribution. The Foundation provides a charitable tax receipt for any donation over \$25. Please consider a donation to LBHF when completing your Lake of Bays Association membership renewal form.

Silent Boat Rally



The Silent Boat Rally on the Lower Oxtongue River had a record turnout this summer with 43 participants in 30 boats (11 canoes, 17 kayaks and 2 paddle boards). The group saw a Broad-winged Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Kingfishers, Painted and Snapping Turtles and River Otters. Many thanks to the volunteers for making it all happen; Brian Simpson, Gloria Woodside, Jennifer Wiser, Tracey Macey, David Ticoll, Mark McLean, Jill Langford, Gabrielle McMillan, Jacqueline Lalor and Penny Thomas. The Silent Boat Rally is a joint venture of LOBA and LBHF.

PROPANE Bulk Pricing Program for LOBA Members

If you use propane to heat your home or cottage at Lake of Bays, LOBA has some news for you. We are considering a program to offer bulk pricing exclusively for LOBA members. This could save 10 to 25 percent or more annually for a typical home or cottage that is heated throughout the winter, compared to current residential market rates.

Propane prices are unregulated and fluctuate widely from one supplier to another. Even prices from the same supplier can vary significantly from one customer to another, depending on the customer's knowledge of market pricing, ability to negotiate etc.

LOBA's large membership has attracted the attention of some propane suppliers operating in the area. Fraser Govan will be coordinating the program with a supplier(s). Interested members should contact Fraser and he will discuss the program details with you. Members wishing to participate would then be registered, and their information would be communicated to the supplier. The member would contract directly with the supplier. LOBA would not be involved in the invoicing/payments process. Ongoing membership with LOBA would be required to maintain the bulk pricing status with the supplier. The cost to switch-out a tank and transfer any remaining propane is usually provided at no cost to the member. Unfortunately, not all interested members may be able to participate in the program due to property/tank access, consumption volume, etc. Switch-outs are expected to commence in Spring 2017.

For further information, contact Fraser Govan (fgovan@cottagecountry.net or (705) 767-3692).

LOBA NEWS

We've got it covered for you.

Current Connection

As a LOBA member you will automatically receive our newsletter, Current Connection, three times a year delivered by email to the primary email address you have provided on the membership form. **If you enjoy receiving your copy of Current Connection in the mail, be sure to tick the box on your membership form and we will mail you a printed copy.**

Newsflash

As a LOBA member you will receive our electronic *Newsflash* updates between issues of Current Connection, delivered by email to the primary email address you have provided on the membership form. **Additional family members can sign up to receive our Newsflash too. Go to www.loba.ca and click on "e-news"!**

Facebook

Check out the LOBA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lobaontario/>. Find out what is happening around the lake, view links to local news stories and share photos. **This is a great way to keep in touch with Lake of Bays in real time.**

www.loba.ca

Our website remains the go-to resource for all of LOBA's news and information. **Bookmark www.loba.ca for quick access.**

2017 Yearbook

Delivered by mail in early June. **Ensure you receive your copy by renewing your LOBA membership today!**

Canada Geese *continued from page 3*

Muskoka Conservancy can help. For a \$100 donation, it will send an expert volunteer to your property to make planting suggestions, answer questions, suggest resources such as landscapers and point you in the right direction to do what's best for your property. Please call Jen at (705) 645-7393 ext. 200.

Looking for inspiration for your shoreline planting project?

Visit www.loba.ca and read the Newsflash titled "**Dwight Beach Shoreline Planting Thriving**" for a description of LOBA's Re-greening project on Dwight Beach, including a complete plant list.

Other Helpful Resources:

Living in Cottage Country: What You Need to Know (Muskoka Watershed Council publication 2014. Visit www.muskokawatershed.org, or call (705) 645-2100 ext. 387 to purchase a copy).

Chapter 4: The Beauty of Buffers

Chapter 8: Landscaping for a Healthy Environment

Chapter 9: Losing Ground to Erosion and Buffer-Friendly Beaches

Visit <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/> Select "Grow Me Instead"



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