



## short-term rentals UPDATE

At the August 19 Township of Lake of Bays council meeting, staff presented a report on how to regulate short-term rentals (STRs) in the Township. Short-term rentals are defined as “the rental of a residence, or part of a residence, for short periods of time (less than a month) through internet-based platforms.”

To prepare the report, staff sought public input through a variety of means, including an online survey and quick poll, tax inserts and attendance at community events. The report indicated that 17% of respondents rent out property in the township, 60% want regulation or prohibition of STRs, and 61% are concerned about noise, garbage, and occupancy numbers at STRs.

The report recommended that the Township implement regulations for STRs and asked that staff have more time to study regulations in other municipalities in order to develop the best solution for Lake of Bays. The report was accepted by Council and a deadline of March 2021 for the next report was set.

Staff are now seeking your input regarding the most appropriate regulations for STRs in the Township at

[mylakeofbays.ca/STR](http://mylakeofbays.ca/STR). 

## Invasive Chinese Mysterysnails Really?

*When Caroline Konarzewski, Lake of Bays Association Environment Chair, read an article about invasive Chinese mysterysnails in Muskoka, she had to learn more. Here are the disturbing facts.*

Chinese mysterysnails are a large invasive freshwater snail and their presence has been confirmed in the narrows in Huntsville between Fairy Lake and Lake Vernon. According to the Ontario division of the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System ([eddmaps.org/Ontario/](http://eddmaps.org/Ontario/)) they have also been confirmed in a few Muskoka lakes including Lake Muskoka, Lake Rosseau and Three Mile Lake.

### What are they and why are they a problem?

These snails compete for food with native snails and other small critters in our lakes. They transmit parasites and disease. Swimmers

itch is more of a problem where these snails exist. They can clog your water intake pipes. They are unsightly and “ouchy” if you step on them with bare feet. They reproduce rapidly as females give birth to about 100 live snails each year for 2 to 4 years of their lifespan. They are very difficult to eradicate.

### How did they get here?

Native to Asia, mysterysnails were first introduced to California in the late 1800s for seafood markets. Some could have been released into various waterbodies either intentionally or accidentally over the years since then. They are still available for use in aquaria.

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### left:

These robust mollusks were introduced to California in the 1800s for seafood markets and were most probably released unintentionally into waterbodies.

**LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION****VIRTUAL AGM  
2020**

**T**he Association held our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday July 8 by Zoom, hosted by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations.

Over 40 members and guests attended. The audited financial statements for the year ending October 31, 2019 were reviewed, the auditor for 2019/2020 was approved and the slate of Directors for 2020/21 was also approved. We said goodbye to resigning directors Linda Robinson and Bob Breithaupt. President Mary Ann Peden updated members on Association activities and the meeting ended with a Q&A. While we hope the 2021 meeting can be held in person, the virtual AGM was a success.

**Board of Directors  
2020-2021**

**Mary Ann Peden**  
*President*

**Ian Beverley**  
*Past President*

**Kathy Ogrzyzlo**  
*Treasurer*

**Chairs**

**Pat Birnie**  
*Safety*


**Wendy Gibson**  
*Communications*

**Fraser Govan**  
*Planning, Development & Government Relations*

**Caroline Konarzewski**  
*Environment*

**Ian White**  
*Membership and Nominations & Volunteers*

**Andy Barnett**  
**Jane Dupéré**  
**Don Macintosh**  
**Susan Truscott**  
**Marcia Watt**  
**Gloria Woodside**  
**Vacancies (4)**

If you are interested in finding out more about being a Director with LOBA, contact Ian White at [ian.white@rogers.com](mailto:ian.white@rogers.com) 

*continued from page 1—mysterysnails*

**How do you find them and what you should do if you do find them?**

First you need to know how to recognise them. Mature Chinese mysterysnails are:

about 6.5 cm (2.5 inches) from top to bottom,

have a smooth shell that is brownish to varying shades of olive-green,

have whorls (spiraling swellings) separated by prominent sutures (deep grooves), are wide not narrow,

have an operculum (a sort of trap door over their opening) that no native species have.

**How can you help prevent the introduction of these snails into Lake of Bays?**

The key pathway is through water vessels moving between different bodies of water. ATVs and snowmobiles could also pick them up in water and drop them in new waterways. Bait buckets might have snails in them, too. So please:

Ensure that your boat and other water vessels are clean, drained, and dried when moving between different bodies of water.

Empty your bait bucket at least 30m away from any water body.

Never dump unwanted snails, or any fish for that matter, from your aquarium into any water system.


For more pictures and description check the iNaturalist app or go to one or more of the links at the end of this article.

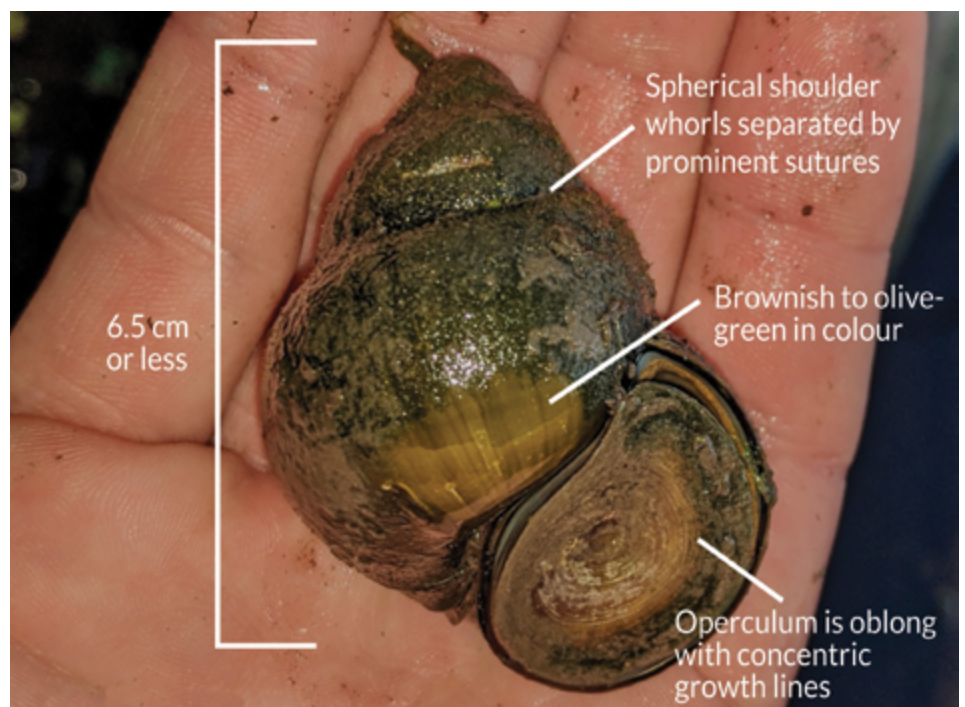
To look for them take a 10-minute stroll along your shoreline. That should be plenty of time to find them if they are there. They are typically found in shallow (up to 5 ft.) water. If you find snails that you think might be Chinese mysterysnails take pictures from several angles. Report your findings on [EDDMaps.org/Ontario/](https://EDDMaps.org/Ontario/) or [iNaturalist](https://iNaturalist.org/). Both apps are available for your phone. You can also report them by phoning the Invasive Species Hotline: 1-800-563-7711.



Check out the Doppler feature online: [doppleronline.ca/huntsville/invasive-snail-species-found-in-huntsville/](https://doppleronline.ca/huntsville/invasive-snail-species-found-in-huntsville/)

For pictures and descriptions: [www.eddmaps.org/ontario/Species/subject.cfm?sub=59309](https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/Species/subject.cfm?sub=59309)

You can also click on the Distribution Maps tab on this website to see where mysterysnails have been found in Muskoka. 





# Covid

## EXACERBATES ISSUES FACED BY MUSKOKA WOMEN

By Laura Sundy,  
Community Relations Coordinator, YWCA Muskoka

Many of us retreat to cottages during the summer months. Muskoka's clear lakes and charming main streets are a balm for the busyness of urban life. It is hard to imagine Muskoka as anything other than a peaceful summer paradise.

Unfortunately, Muskoka is also home to a number of deep and troubling issues. Poverty, domestic violence, human trafficking—to name a few—and these issues disproportionately affect women. Consider this:

In Muskoka, 49% of women over the age of 65 live below the poverty line. In our trades and tourism-focused economy, women dominate all job markets paying under \$40,000/year. In fact, a man in Muskoka with no higher education (including high school) earns \$7000 more per year than a woman in Muskoka with a college education.

Of the 2500 single parent families in Muskoka 75% of those are headed by women. More women are supporting their families alone, but making much less than men on average. They also face a lack of transportation and childcare services.

**Fortunately, Muskoka is also home to a vibrant and close-knit community of individuals and organizations who are taking steps to address these issues.**

The Covid pandemic has only exacerbated these problems and our most vulnerable women struggle to stay afloat amidst a rise in domestic violence, increased social isolation and greater job insecurity.

Women are on the frontlines of this pandemic. In Canada, 81% of the health care and social assistance workforce is

made up of women. Fifty-six percent of women workers are concentrated in occupations known as the 5Cs: caring, cashiering, catering, cleaning and clerical functions, many of which are deemed essential occupations and are industries the economy in Muskoka relies heavily on. Such jobs for the large part cannot be done remotely. (Read more in YWCA Canada's A Feminist Recovery Plan for Canada: [www.feministrecovery.ca](http://www.feministrecovery.ca))

Fortunately, Muskoka is also home to a vibrant and close-knit community of individuals and organizations who are taking steps to address these issues. YWCA Muskoka—a community charity that champions positive change for women and girls—offers educational workshops and self-employment programs to help women get back on their feet again. This summer over \$7500 has been given in financial aid to help women and families who have been struggling at home. 'Digital Smarts' workshops are connecting seniors with great facilitators who are distributing tablets where needed and giving tutorials on how to navigate the internet, safely order groceries online and connect with friends and family virtually.

While much has been done to provide some relief, there is still much more to do, especially in the face of so much unknown for the upcoming fall and winter months.

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**Don't forget to  
submit your photos**  
For the 2020 Photo Contest!

**LIFE AT THE LAKE:** people, pets & dwellings

**NATURE:** wild plants and animals

**LANDSCAPE:** land, water and sky

Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and families. Photos must be previously unpublished and taken in the current year—limit of 5 per category. They must be in high-resolution, digital format. Send to [executivecoord@loba.ca](mailto:executivecoord@loba.ca), subject line Lake of Bays Association photo contest. Deadline December 30, 2020.

**It's Time to Renew your  
LOBA Membership!**

**Don't wait—renew today!**

Your support allows us to continue our work to promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays.

Go to [loba.ca](http://loba.ca) to renew/join and pay online or download a membership form to renew by mail.

Questions about your membership?

Contact **Beverley Govan**  
705-767-3395 or email [info@loba.ca](mailto:info@loba.ca)

**Covid silver-lining story**

We probably all agree that summer 2020 was unlike any previous summer—and life continues to be a march into uncharted territory. It can be stressful and frightening. To balance this, we would like to shine a light on positive events from the year and feature them in the 2021 Association yearbook. Introducing the

**Lake of Bays Covid Silver-Lining Story.**

Tell us about something that happened to make 2020 extra-special at the lake. A new tradition or return to an old ritual. A new hobby or completion of a years-old project. New ways of connecting with old friends. Write your story in a couple of paragraphs and send to [executivecoord@loba.ca](mailto:executivecoord@loba.ca).

We'll share as many as we can.

continued from page 3—covid-Muskoka women

Girlz Unplugged and Quest staff are adapting school-based sessions to reach more youth and elementary aged boys and girls virtually and help them process their experience, develop skills and set goals. Women's wellness and seniors' digital literacy workshops will be offered virtually to help those who are at increased risk of isolation. Business owners will be encouraged to participate in 'Eureka' brainstorming sessions and the Women in Business program. YWCA Muskoka also amplifies Circles Muskoka, a poverty-reduction initiative that creates purposeful belonging for volunteers and families in the Huntsville and Gravenhurst community.

At YWCA Muskoka, we believe that when women thrive, the entire community thrives (including our valued seasonal community!) Muskoka women need the support of our seasonal residents. Your donation will help women thrive in Muskoka, and help our girls grow up to believe they have a voice in creating their own future.

To make a contribution to help women and girls in your cottage community through YWCA Muskoka, please visit: [ywcamuskoka.com](http://ywcamuskoka.com) and donate.

## Do you need support ?

If you are in need of assistance, or simply need someone to talk to, please reach out to us at 705-645-9827. YWCA Muskoka's full list of fall programming is available at [ywcamuskoka.com](http://ywcamuskoka.com).

## Resources for women in Muskoka:

Muskoka Interval House~Bracebridge  
1-800-461-1740~24 hours a day

Chrysalis House~Huntsville  
1-866-789-8488~24 hours a day

YWCA Muskoka  
705-645-9827~M-Th, 8:30-4:30

Muskoka Victim Services  
1-844-762-9945~24 hours a day

Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual  
Assault Services  
1-800-461-2929~24 hours a day

Canadian Mental Health & Addiction  
1-888-893-8333~24 hours a day 




**E**arlier this summer, an algal bloom was detected on Ten Mile Bay on Lake of Bays and reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The MECP responded to the report and collected samples from the lake on July 6, 2020. Communication between the Lake of Bays Association, the MECP and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit confirmed a "small", localized bloom of blue-green algae. To our knowledge no health advisories were necessary as a result of this bloom, which was no longer present when the lake association attempted to locate it on July 16. The Health Unit declared the bloom resolved at the end of September.

The proliferation of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) of cyanobacteria in lakes across Canada is of considerable management concern and believed to be caused by a combination of multiple natural and anthropogenic stressors. Decades of research have been undertaken to better understand the causal factors responsible for blooms. The link between nutrient enrichment and HABs has been well established for eutrophic lakes but HABs have recently become a considerable management issue in oligotrophic systems such as Lake of Bays, where the low levels of nutrients do not typically produce HABs. In some cases nutrient enrichment from external or internal loading can favour cyanobacterial species; however, more recent research has also focused on the importance of other micronutrients, climate-mediated physical limnological changes (e.g., water temperature and stability) and the ecology of harmful algal species as drivers of HABs.

The Lake of Bays Association, working in cooperation with Hutchinson En-

vironmental Sciences Ltd. (HESL), has been monitoring water quality at over a dozen sampling locations across Lake of Bays. To date significant changes in water quality have not been noted, however the research by HESL has noted a significant link between nutrient concentrations and climate, specifically precipitation. Years with high rainfall generally result in more runoff to the lake and with that runoff comes nutrients from the surrounding landscape and a potential risk of a HAB. Thus, any stewardship practices by the lake community that can reduce runoff may help protect the lake. Best management practices to help control runoff to the lake from lakeshore properties are well established. For example, shoreline buffers and a naturalized cottage lot can reduce the volume of precipitation running off directly into the lake and provide an opportunity for all residents to contribute to the ongoing health of our lake.

## Decades of research have been undertaken to better understand the causal factors responsible for algae blooms

A shoreline buffer is an area along the shoreline that is naturally vegetated or re-vegetated. Shoreline buffers mitigate the impacts of runoff through filtering, infiltration, and uptake by vegetation. Buffers filter sediment and other pollutants, and absorb nutrients from runoff, thereby helping to reduce the impacts on the lake. Shoreline re-naturalization of public areas also provides an opportunity to reduce runoff to the lake and promote lake health through community action. LOBA is involved with one such re-naturalization project this fall at the South Portage public boat launch at North Portage Road and aims to continue to support good stewardship of Lake of Bays in the future. You can find many useful resources on the topic in the Muskoka Water Web [www.muskokawaterweb.ca/resources-by-topic](http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca/resources-by-topic), or through the Muskoka Watershed Council [www.muskokawatershed.org/](http://www.muskokawatershed.org/). 

Mary Ann Peden

## president's report



It goes without saying that this was a vastly different spring and summer then we have ever experienced in our community. For many members, their home on Lake of Bays became their refuge, their place of work or school, and place to gather with family members in their “bubble”. We encourage our members to continue to follow health and safety protocols, and support local businesses, many of whom are operating in creative ways to support us. We would like to thank Township of Lake of Bays and Town of Huntsville staff, councillors and mayors who have worked extremely hard to keep our local communities running smoothly through the pandemic. We also send heartfelt thanks to those who provide our essential services—we could not be here without you.

Development activities at Lake of Bays continued to be a priority for LOBA with the Langmaid's Island development proposal and subsequent appeal being our number one issue at this time. Read the update on page 6. We deeply appreciate the financial support received from members through our Action Fund that assists with supporting and advocating on issues such as this.

In September 2019, the Township of Lake of Bays released a draft Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) by-law which consolidates the current Development Permit By-law system and Zoning By-law. The Development Permit system is 15-years old and we are the only lake-based municipality with such a by-law that provides significant environmental protection in the waterfront zone. Bob Lehman of Lehman and Associates worked with the Township in creating the Development Permit By-law and he is again assisting LOBA in reviewing and providing input on the CPPS. We have advocated for maintaining the existing waterfront regulations and encouraged that there be opportunity for further public input on the final draft by-law. At the September Township council meeting it was announced that the Director of Planning will be providing a video overview of the new by-law and hosting an electronic open house prior to bringing the by-law to council for consideration.

Last winter we asked our members about their experiences with short-term rentals (STRs) and received a varied response. In Spring 2020, the Town of Huntsville implemented a STR by-law. The Township of Lake of Bays continues to study the issue—see the full story on page 1.

**We encourage our members to continue to follow health and safety protocols, and support local businesses, many of whom are operating in creative ways to support us.**

Internet access continues to be a priority for the Township and has become even more critical with the increased need for reliable internet service during the pandemic. LOBA supported an initiative by two internet companies who are applying for infrastructure funding from the Federal Government to improve internet service in some parts of our community. LOBA sent a letter to District Chair John Klinck regarding the recently formed “Municipal Modernization Committee” to support several initiatives to improve population representation at District council. In particular, LOBA supports the resolution that seasonal residents should be counted at 100% rather than the current 50%.

In early September I met with Mayor Terry Glover to discuss many of the above issues and others of importance to our members. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all our municipal representatives.

Did you read the 2020 Yearbook? In their Association Reports, our board chairs outlined their 2019 news and accomplishments. There were feature articles on different types of docking systems, identifying fungi in Lake of Bays and a fascinating family history of Langmaid's Island.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our water-quality testing program, one of LOBA's core environmental programs, had to be cancelled for this summer. However, the experts at Hutchinson Environmental Services, who analyze the data each year, assured us that our members need not be concerned as LOBA has long term information and has consistently excellent water quality. In early July, a small blue-green algae bloom was confirmed in the eastern area of Ten Mile Bay. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health unit conducted tests and at the end of September the bloom was declared resolved.

I want to express our gratitude to our members who continue to be steadfast in their support of LOBA; to our Area Stewards and the vital work they do engaging with our community—even if it is at a social distance or online; to our many other volunteers who work in the water-quality testing program, other environmental teams and other programs; to our staff Lili Davis-Burchat and Bev Govan; and to my fellow Board members for their hard work and commitment. Two of our Board members moved on this year—Bob Breithaupt and Linda Robinson (stepping down as Membership Chair) and I thank them for their service. Volunteers are always welcome, a great way to get involved and support this beautiful, unique place we call Lake of Bays and make some friends along the way. We have four openings on our board and would love to hear from you if you are interested in applying. We sincerely hope that every one of our members, community supporters, municipal representatives, business partners, first responders, front-line and essential-service workers, and their families, stay healthy and safe in these history-making times and cherish the beautiful community that we are so fortunate to live in. 



# Langmaid's Island

by Wendy Gibson

## UPDATE

On July 24, 2020 the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT) conducted a Mediation Assessment and have agreed to provide mediation, with an LPAT-assigned mediator, for the Langmaid's Island appeal. All parties have agreed to partic-


ipate—that is Langmaid's Island Corp. (LIC), Township of Lake of Bays, Town of Huntsville, District of Muskoka, Kelly Zytaruk and LOBA/LBHF. It is anticipated that there will be four one-day sessions with at least a week between each one. The first two sessions have already taken place on September 14 and 25. The sessions are conducted on Zoom and LOBA/LBHF are represented in the proceedings by H.G. Elston Professional Corporation (lawyer), Northern Vision Planning Ltd. (planner)

and Ages Consultants Limited (planner). Both LOBA and LBHF have members attending and available for consultation with Wendy Gibson, Mary Ann Peden and Lili Davis-Burchat attending on behalf of LOBA.

Mediation is a confidential settlement process. All information shared either verbally or in written form is treated as confidential by the parties and cannot be disclosed in a public forum unless all parties agree or are compelled by law. Anyone who is privy to the mediation process (listening or watching) is required to be bound by the same terms. Should the mediation proceed to an agreement, there will be opportunity for the LOBA and LBHF Boards to review the agreement prior to it being finalized.

## background

Langmaid's Island Corp has proposed the subdivision of Langmaid's Island into 32 residential lots with mainland access from two waterfront landings on nearby South Portage Road. This development proposal is unique because Langmaid's Island is a designated Muskoka Heritage Area and is recognized as such in the Township of Lake of Bays Official Plan with specified constraints on the creation of new lots.

In November 2018, Langmaid's Island Corp. filed three LPAT appeals on the basis that no decision had been reached by the respective approval authorities (The Township of Lake of Bays, Town of Huntsville and District of Muskoka) within the time limit mandated by the planning act. The appeals were filed a few days prior to council meetings that were scheduled to consider the applications and hear a second round of public comments. The planning staff reports for both the Township of Lake of Bays and the Town of Huntsville had recommended that the applications be denied. LOBA and LBHF support the staff recommendations to deny the development application and chose to seek party status in the appeal in order to defend the policies that protect our local natural heritage and advocate for responsible land use planning that is consistent with the character of the surrounding community. 

The Township of Lake of Bays by-law services has developed this Quick Reference Guide for property owners and renters. The guide outlines relevant municipal by-laws that are currently in effect and enforced by the Township's By-law Enforcement Officer.



**LAKE OF BAYS**  
MUSKOKA

**QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**  
for Property Owners/Renters  
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS

<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>OCCUPANCY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of persons should match approved septic use permit</li> <li>• Rental listing/agreement should match this number</li> </ul> <p>Ontario Building Code</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>NOISE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No excessive noise Mon-Sat 9pm-7am, Sunday not before noon</li> <li>• Exemptions available with application</li> <li>• Fireworks are banned</li> </ul> <p>By-law 2000-59</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>BURNING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No outdoor burning 8am-6pm, Apr 1- Oct 31</li> <li>• Outdoor cooking on approved BBQ/device only</li> <li>• Fire ban = no burning at all</li> </ul> <p>By-law 2013-003</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>GARBAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep onsite and take to nearest District transfer station: <a href="http://muskokarecycles.ca">muskokarecycles.ca</a></li> <li>• Township receptacles are for park use, no household garbage permitted</li> </ul> <p>By-law 1999-82</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>PARKING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park within driveway</li> <li>• Keep fire hydrants and driveway access clear</li> <li>• Keep roadways clear for snow removal</li> </ul> <p>By-law 1995-72</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>DOGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leashed in public</li> <li>• No trespass allowed</li> <li>• Not allowed on public beaches May 1-Oct 1</li> <li>• Stoop &amp; Scoop always</li> <li>• Dog licences are free to residents</li> </ul> <p>By-law 2014-134</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>OFF ROAD VEHICLES (ATVs/UTVs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MTO approved vehicles only</li> <li>• 20-50 km/hour as per posted speed</li> <li>• List of prohibited roads in by-law</li> <li>• OPP enforced</li> </ul> <p>By-law 2016-041</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p><b>TRAILERS &amp; CAMPING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupancy of trailers is prohibited</li> <li>• Occupancy of trailers and tents prohibited on vacant land, municipal land and crown land</li> </ul> <p>By-law 2014-096</p> </div>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT**

Township of Lake of Bays By-law Officer

Email: [ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca)

Phone: 1-877-566-0005 ext. 246

Request for Service: [lakeofbays.on.ca/report](http://lakeofbays.on.ca/report)

OPP Dispatch: 1-888-310-1122

Fire Danger Rating: 1-877-847-1577

# Should you or shouldn't you—the straight facts about

by Richard Burnet

## De-ICEing

### general

**W**hile this past winter and subsequent spring ice breakup were not particularly problematic for residents on the lake, everyone will recall 2019 and the damage caused around Lake of Bays when the breakup came and the ice moved in rather dramatic fashion in various parts of the lake. For the most part, it is at this time that the majority of damage to structures takes place. It can happen in a matter of hours, if the conditions and timing are just right, and the wind starts to blow. Once the ice starts to move there is not much that can stop it and what lies in its path is at its mercy.

Nevertheless, these events had many questioning whether a dock de-icer of some form should be installed at their cottage/home. Generally, de-icers are only installed for permanent docks and boat-houses. Pipe docks (removed in winter), cantilever docks (raised above the ice) and floating docks (tied up in a protected area) are not as susceptible to ice damage.

There are two common types of dock de-icers on the market. Bubblers, which release air bubbles from a submerged hose, powered by an onshore compressor and; Agitators or Impellers, which circulate lake water toward the surface from a submerged, enclosed motor and propeller which is suspended in the water by lines or a bracket, from a dock or float. Properly installed, de-icers create small openings around your dock/boathouse to protect against ice forming and pulling on the structures as water/ice levels fall during the winter months. Neither is inexpensive to buy and install, and there are also operating costs to consider. The operating costs can be minimized by using timers to limit the running times of the units in order to maintain the small openings referred to above.

Notwithstanding the benefits of a properly installed dock de-icer, there are a number of other significant factors that should play into a final decision:

- de-icers are noisy, bubblers in particular due to the use of a compressor
- de-icing may create a safety hazard for people and animals (more below under legal)
- the absence of strong stable ice may limit winter recreation and access to the lake, including that for adjacent properties
- opening up too large an area can cause damage by allowing ice floes to move in windy conditions
- there is no guarantee that a de-icer will successfully thwart ice damage in any event (ie. 2019)

### environmental

- altering water temperatures and light conditions may impact algae and plant growth, the feeding habits of fish and other aquatic organisms
- disturbing bottom sediments release nutrients, such as phosphorus, which can result in an increase in algae
- agitators/impellers contain lubricating oil that, in the event of a failed seal, will leak directly into the water

### legal

Two sections of the Criminal Code of Canada most closely pertain to the end use of de-icers:

1. Sec. 263 (1) Duty to safeguard opening in ice—"Every one who makes or causes to be made an opening in ice that is open to or frequented by the public is under a legal duty to guard it in a manner that is adequate to prevent persons from falling in by accident and is adequate to warn them that the opening exists."
2. Sec. 263 (3) states "Every one who fails to perform a duty imposed by subsection (1) is guilty of


- (a) manslaughter, if the death of any person results therefrom;
- (b) an offence under section 269, if bodily harm to any person results therefrom; or
- (c) an offence punishable on summary conviction."

It is important to note that there is no definition of what constitutes "adequate" in respect of the guarding of the opening or preventing the falling in to the opening, referred to above. In addition, Section 269 references possible terms of imprisonment if found guilty of an offence under the section

At a minimum, you should consider signs (illuminated at night), in all directions, advising of open ice, coupled with warning lights (amber vs. red in order not to be mistaken for a snowmobile's brake lights at night)

### lake of bays by-laws

The township does not have any by-laws specific to the installation and use of de-icers, however, in considering how to "guard" the ice openings, you would need to adhere to Lake of Bays' dark-skies by-law which would not allow for any type of flashing warning lights, amber or otherwise, but would still allow for a downward-facing spotlight illuminating a warning sign.

All this to say that, while there may be some upside to de-icing, there are no guarantees of your structures being protected from ice damage and, certainly, any number of potential downsides. In the end, de-icers could reduce the impact of ice freezing through the winter months but may have little to no effect during spring breakup depending on the speed of the thaw and the prevailing winds at the time. 



## INTERNET accessibility

In the Spring 2020 newsletter, Ian White shared his experience and knowledge of internet access around the lake. Since then he has heard from many members about this issue and understands internet reception is a property-to-property issue—there are no blanket solutions. For those readers experiencing difficulties with internet service, our recommendation is to talk to nearby neighbours with a similar lake exposure and orientation who are satisfied with their service provider. There are several Internet Service Providers around the lake with equipment installed specifically to service a small number of local customers with line-of-sight availability. Most of these ISPs have mapping which would provide some degree of accuracy in indicating whether their equipment would provide a satisfactory signal to your address.

The following is a partial list of companies (in alphabetical order) who can provide and install equipment at your location to enable you to receive their signal:



**Bell Canada**  
**Cottage Country Internet**  
**4pairless Communications**  
**Interactive North**  
**Lakeland Networks**  
**Vianet**  
**Xplornet**

If you have had success with other ISPs,  
please let Ian know.

[ian.white@rogers.com](mailto:ian.white@rogers.com) 



**CURRENT CONNECTION** is published two times a year by The Lake of Bays Association for the information of its members. Suggestions, inquiries, manuscripts, photos, etc. can be sent to: Lake of Bays Association P.O. Box 8, Baysville ON P0B 1A0 ■ Phone: 705-767-3395 Fax: 705-767-1044 ■ [info@loba.ca](mailto:info@loba.ca) ■ [loba.ca](http://loba.ca) ■ [www.facebook.com/lobaontario/](http://www.facebook.com/lobaontario/)



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