

currentconnection

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER VOLUME 34, NUMBER 2

FALL 2023

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

Your Questions ~answered~

by Tim Hadwen

Q What are the requirements of the Dark Skies By-law?

On a dark night, the moon and stars are beautiful, especially when the moonlight reflects off the water, or the northern lights come out. And the darkness is a lovely change from the streetlights of town. The Township values its dark sky as it contributes to the tourist economy and Muskoka's character.

The Dark-Skies By-law requires:

- ✓ All exterior building lighting to be shielded and aimed down, not projecting out or up.
- ✓ Lighting for yards and parking is to be arranged to minimize light trespass.

Please help by turning exterior lights off when not needed—that includes bubbler lights, and no one needs to see your boat illuminated at night.

Also moderate the light shining out your windows. For example, turn your TV so it shines inward, not out onto your neighbours or the lake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Q What is the most important thing I can do with my property to protect the lake?

Keep your shoreline as natural as possible with a vegetative buffer.

A natural shoreline is the "ribbon of life" for a lake:

- ✓ supporting fish and wildlife,

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an update Watching our Water

by Kieran Molony

Regular testing ensures that our lake stays healthy

The Lake of Bays Water Quality Program, run through the Lake of Bays Association, is an essential initiative to ensure our beautiful lake remains healthy and resilient in the face of stresses such as increased population around the lake and the effects of climate change. Possible outcomes of these stressors are algae blooms and E. coli outbreaks. Algae blooms can occur when phosphorous levels in the water increase to a level that allows the microscopic plant algae to rapidly increase their population and form a thick layer on the surface of the

The LOBA water quality program samples water from 23 sites around the lake to determine the amount of phosphorous in the water as well as E.coli levels.

water—ugly and dangerous. Among other things, this green mat on the water does not allow oxygen to be available for other wildlife in the water, causing massive die-offs as well as being unhealthy for humans who inhale the algae or come into contact with it. E. coli outbreaks can occur when E. coli bacteria from human waste enters a water body.

right above: Penny Thomas preparing a water sample

right below: Stephan von Buttler preparing to measure water clarity with a Secchi disk

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continued—Your questions...page 1

- ✓ absorbing pollutants before they reach the water, and
- ✓ preserving the view for everyone.

Under the Township of Lake of Bays Development Permit By-law, the natural waterfront is to prevail, with building and structures blending into the landscape, and natural shorelines retained or restored.

Changes to docks, boathouses, and the size of the shoreline activity area most often require Development Permits. The rest of the shoreline should remain in a natural state.

Your Questions Answered will be a regular feature in the Current Connection newsletter. If you have questions you'd like answered, send them to info@loba.ca. And you can find information about the most common Township of Lake of Bays by-laws at lakeofbays.on.ca/en/municipal-services/by-laws-and-administrative-penalties.aspx, and Town of Huntsville by-laws at huntsville.ca/en/council-and-administration/bylaws-and-policies.aspx.



Don't forget to submit your pictures for the 2023 LOBA photo contest!

LIFE at the LAKE: people, pets and 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 info@loba.ca, subject line Lake of Bays Association photo contest.
 Deadline December 30, 2023.



continued—Watching our Water...page 1

Finding E.coli in the water is a good indicator that other disease-causing bacteria are also present. Ingestion of these bacteria causes illness and can be fatal to vulnerable individuals.

In order to monitor and predict the vulnerability of the lake to either algae blooms or E.coli outbreaks, the LOBA water quality program samples water from 23 sites around the lake to determine the amount of phosphorous in the water as well as E.coli levels—*see map above*. The 23 sites consist of deep, open water locations (9), river and river-influenced sites (4), nearshore sites adjacent to developed areas (5), and nearshore, undeveloped sites (5). These four site types are important as they allow us to understand where the phosphorus and E. coli in the waterbody are coming from and can allow us to pinpoint areas of the lake that are vulnerable to either natural processes or human activity.

above: sampling locations on the lake
right: Kim Davison preparing a water sample

From day one in 1970, the water quality program has been volunteer-lead and driven. John Govan pioneered the program, followed by his son Fraser Govan, then Margaret Casey and then Deb Cumming.



LOBA takes the process of water-quality testing very seriously, just as we take the health of the lake seriously. The water samples are delivered to an ALS Testing laboratory for analysis and the data are then forwarded to Hutchinson Environmental Sciences (HES) who prepare a detailed report each year. Since 2001, over 1800 samples have been drawn and analyzed so HES is able to monitor trends over time. You can find reports going back to 2001 at loba.ca/programs/environment/read-more/.

From day one in 1970, the water quality program has been volunteer-lead and driven. John Govan pioneered the program, followed by his son Fraser Govan, then Margaret Casey and then Deb Cumming. These volunteers laid the critical foundation for me to continue the program. For an in-depth history of the program, check out “[Watching Our Water](#)” in the 2018 LOBA yearbook, pages 24-32.

I took over managing the program in 2021 and it has been my great pleasure to work with 10+ year veteran water-quality testers Penny Thomas, Pascale Cloutier, Paul Fraser and Stephan von Buttlar, and newer volunteers Mary Wheelwright, Kim Davison, and Leslie Giroday. These volunteers are passionate about and dedicated to Lake of Bays. They are the reason we have the highest quality data about our water. On behalf of all LOBA members and directors, I extend sincere thanks to them. If you would like to join our team in 2024, please reach out to Susanne Gossage, Environment Committee chair susannegossage@gmail.com or Lili Davis-Burchat info@loba.ca.

Kieran Molony is LOBA's Water Quality Program Coordinator. In 2021 he took over managing the program and has been doing an excellent job!

Kieran has been cottaging on Lake of Bays since birth. He completed his BSc in Biology at the University of Western Ontario this past Spring and will be working towards an Integrated Pest Management Certificate from Guelph University shortly. Thank you, Kieran! 

president's report

Wendy Gibson

Association definition:

An organization of persons having a common interest.



Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Lake of Bays Association. In this issue of Current Connection, we celebrate the exceptional contributions of some of our volunteers; our Area Stewards, the Water Quality Team and retiring directors. We also wel-

come two new directors to the LOBA Board, joining eleven returning directors. In addition, there are many others who volunteer their time to LOBA's various activities in the safety; planning, development and government relations; communications; and membership portfolios. To all these volunteers I express my heartfelt gratitude for your involvement in the work of this Association.

To those of you who are not active as a volunteer, please know that your participation by renewing your membership is equally important to LOBA's success. Your membership fee supports our efforts to educate, advocate and engage in issues that impact the sustainability of the environment, economy, and natural beauty of our lake community. Where a strong united voice is required, each member counts.

One of the tangible benefits of your LOBA membership is the LOBA group discount program for propane offered by Superior Propane. Also, because LOBA is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, our members can access the Cottage First group insurance program offered by Cade Insurance Brokers. Intrinsic values of membership include LOBA's water quality monitoring program, representation of our lake community at all levels of government on issues of common concern and affiliation with other key organizations engaged in protecting the health of the Muskoka Watershed. LOBA's communication platforms keep you up to date on the news and information you need to protect your property values and quality of life at Lake of Bays.

Our members are those who affect the lake and are affected by it. If this description resonates with you, please renew your 2024 membership when you receive your reminder.

Thank you! 

Those of you who are not active as a volunteer, please know that your participation by renewing your membership is equally important to LOBA's success

A Year of Change for 2023 LOBA 2024

by Mary Ann Peden

Lake of Bays Association said farewell to five and welcomed two new directors

At the July 2023 Annual and Special Meeting, the Lake of Bays Association said farewell to five directors and welcomed two new directors.

Caroline Konarzewski joined the LOBA Board in 2013 and became Chair of the Environment Committee in 2014. Caroline spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at preserving the local ecosystem. These are just a few:

▲ LOBA representative on the Muskoka Watershed Council from 2013 to 2023.

▲ Managed and oversaw the LOBA Water Quality Testing Program.

▲ Managed the Love Your Lake program, enhancing waterfront sustainability for private property owners.

▲ Initiated and managed the Frog Watch citizen science program, monitoring local frog populations.

▲ Created the LOBA Invasive Species Team and recruited volunteers to educate members and monitor invasive land and water species.

▲ Currently promoting the Natural Edge Program, encouraging shoreland re-naturalization through Watersheds Canada.

In 2022, Caroline received the Doug Cross Stewardship Award from the Muskoka Watershed Council in recognition of her efforts in shoreline stewardship, and in June of this year Township of Lake of Bays Mayor Terry Glover presented Caroline with the Ontario Senior of the Year Award in recognition of her excep-

tional contributions to the community and her unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship in Lake of Bays.

Through her tireless volunteer efforts, and her numerous articles on environmental issues, Caroline has been instrumental in educating our LOBA members and the community at large. At this year's AGM, in recognition of her volunteer work with these and many other initiatives, Caroline was presented with the **Betty Day Award** which recognizes exceptional volunteers. Congratulations Caroline!

Fraser Govan, was our longest serving director for 36 years. The Govan family has been on Lake of Bays for more than 70 years; first as cottagers and then as permanent residents. During that time, Fraser was tireless in his efforts to support a variety of LOBA priorities. Here are just a few:

▲ Assisted his father, John, with establishing the water testing program on the Lake in the 1960s, the first of its kind in the Muskoka area. Fraser took over management of the program from 1987 to 1993 and continued to assist with the program until the early 2000s.

▲ Served on the External Affairs committee monitoring the Lake of Bays Township council meetings and reporting on issues such as taxes, municipal services, and discussions regarding the proposed amalgamation within Muskoka.

▲ Established and managed the propane discount program for members.

▲ Became Chair of the newly merged Planning, Development and Government Relations Committee in 2020 and managed a team of volunteers that monitored municipal government and staff at the Township of Lake of Bays, Town of Huntsville, and District of Muskoka. Fraser will continue as a volunteer on this team.

▲ Working collaboratively with local governments, he discussed and made submissions on many issues including the Community Planning Permit System, electricity pricing, Official Plan reviews, annual budgets of the Township and District, and by-law updates such as the Noise by-law and new Short Term Rental Licencing by-law.

▲ Tirelessly monitored municipal planning meetings and applications and proposed large developments of concern including Fairview Island, Langmaids Island and the Deerhurst Resort re-development and shared this information with the Association's board and members.

Since LOBA's inception in 1926, there have been only six Lifetime Memberships awarded and these are recognized annually in the LOBA yearbook. In recognition of his long and dedicated service, Fraser was presented with a **Honourary Lifetime Membership** in the Association, which means he will join his father, John Govan on this list of exemplary LOBA volunteers.



above left to right: Mary Ann Peden, Caroline Konarzewski, Wendy Gibson, Mary Ann Peden, Fraser Govan, Wendy Gibson, Ann Morrison, Glenn Vickery

Pat Birnie joined the LOBA Board in 2013 and served as Safety Chair for most of the next ten years. With the goal to educate and inform, and always with a touch of humour, Pat and his small team addressed boat safety and regulations, being “wake aware” and encouraging courteous and respectful behaviour while enjoying the lake. Pat was readily available to chat with anyone who had questions or concerns even though he was very busy running Arrowhead Camp and raising a young family. Pat brought his local, business-minded thinking to board discussions and generously provided the Camp as a meeting place.

Sylvain Desjeans joined the LOBA Board in 2021 and worked with the environment committee. He has moved away from Lake of Bays and retired from the board.

The Lake of Bays Association lost a valued board member and good friend with the passing of **Ian White** this past April 30. Ian and his wife, Sue, built their cottage on Whiskey Bay in the early 2000s and enjoyed it year-round. Soon after arriving on Lake of Bays, Ian volunteered to be an Area Steward for LOBA, a position he held from 2007 until last winter. He joined the LOBA Board of Directors in 2010 as Chair of Membership and served as President from 2012 to 2014. Ian continued to serve on the LOBA Board for

another nine years fulfilling the role of Chair of Nominations and Volunteer Relations and then again as Chair of Membership. Ian also served on the board of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations. Ian’s thoughtful, kind, and calm demeanor was much appreciated by his peers on the LOBA Board. His attention to detail was invaluable to the Membership and Area Steward programs, and his genuine interest in all things related to Lake of Bays will have a lasting impact on the Association. In his spare time, Ian enjoyed kayaking and canoeing and walking the road around Whiskey Bay always with a friendly smile and time for a chat. LOBA made a donation in Ian’s name to the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation. He is missed.

We wish to thank Ian, Fraser, Caroline, Pat and Sylvain for their service to LOBA and recognize their time and efforts in supporting LOBA’s mission.

The Association welcomed two new directors at the Annual meeting.

Ann Morrison and her family have been cottagers on Garnet Beach Road since the early 60s. Ann is a mechanical engineer by training and worked in this field for a few years until she started her family. When her oldest son was diagnosed with a blinding degenerative eye disease, Ann became involved with the charity Fighting Blindness Canada and

held several leadership roles with them over more than 20 years. Ann recently retired as their Director of Philanthropy. She has been President of the Garnet Beach Road Association, and currently works on the LOBA Communications Team and is an Area Steward.

Glenn Vickery worked at Union Station in Toronto first as a supervisor, and then as Manager of Customer Service and Station Operations. In 2014 he transitioned to being a real estate agent in Muskoka with a home in Huntsville and a cottage in the Port Cunningham area. Glenn has completed two long-distance swims in Lake of Bays, the first around the entire Lake over the summer of 2018 to raise awareness about shoreline preservation, and the second in 2022 around Bigwin Island to raise money for the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. He is involved with the Andrew Daniels Fish Stewardship Foundation and the Dwight Lions. Glenn will be joining the Environment committee and is interested in keeping LOBA informed on community issues.

New Amended and Restated By-Law No.1

The original Lake of Bays Association By-Law No. 1 was put in place in 1978. An Amended and Restated By-Law No. 1 was confirmed by the members in July 2017.

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Careless disposal of highly combustible products is the most common cause of spontaneous fires

As we get into the fall season, indoor home improvement activities start to increase. Some home improvement tasks include staining floors or furniture. This can be a dangerous task if the rags used to stain these items are not properly disposed of. In the past two years, the Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department has investigated four large structure fires that were the result of oil-soaked rags spontaneously combusting.

The most common types of spontaneous combustion fires are those caused by improperly disposing of oil and stain-soaked rags. Examples of these products are oil-based paints, stains, teak, linseed oils, varnishes, polyurethane, and paint thinners. Spontaneous combustion occurs when oily rag or cloth is slowly heated to its ignition point through oxidation. A substance will begin to release heat as it oxidizes. If this heat has no way to escape, like in a pile, the temperature will rise to a level high enough to ignite the oil along with the rag or cloth. The fire from this can spread quickly to other combustibles and cause great damage to your home or property.

Prevention of spontaneous combustion fires begins with good housekeeping. A clean work area can prevent a fire from spreading and getting bigger by not allowing the fire fuel to burn. Also understanding the potential for self-heating of rags soiled with oils such as linseed oil and turpentine is a key step in eliminating these preventable fires. To dispose of oily rags properly and safely, use a metal container with a

tight-fitting lid. Place the used rags inside and then fill the rest of the way with water, seal the top and do not open it. This will prevent the oils from oxidizing, and thus keeping the rags from heating up and igniting. Please contact the town or scan the QR code below, for the Hazardous Waste Collection schedule to dispose of any harmful chemicals or soaked rags.

Should you ever have a fire emergency the only way to stay safe is by having a working smoke/carbon monoxide alarm. Be sure to test your alarm whether it is battery powered or hard-wired by pressing the button on your alarm and keeping it pressed down. The alarm should sound. It is also important to note that smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.

If you are unsure of anything regarding your fire safety, the Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department offers judgement-free assessments of alarms in homes and, in some instances, can offer and install new ones at no cost. Residents are encouraged to contact the fire department for more information.



For More Information Contact:
Steve Markham
 Public Education/Fire Prevention Officer
 Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department
steve.markham@huntsville.ca
 (705) 789-5201 ext. 3609

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In order to comply with the changes to the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, the Amended and Restated By-Law No. 1 was updated with terminology and standards consistent with that Act. Further, as part of LOBA's governance review, the Board determined it would be appropriate to introduce term limits for directors of three consecutive three-year terms and to reduce the size of the Board from 18 to 13 directors. Both of these changes will provide for more effective operations and governance, allowing the Board the ability to act more effectively, and will assist in ensuring that the best candidates are brought forward to join the Board and act as directors, bringing fresh ideas that can ensure LOBA most ably fulfils its mandate.

At the July 2023 Annual and Special Meeting of Members, two resolutions were passed to:

1. Confirm the new Amended and Restated By-Law No. 1; and
2. Reduce the number of directors from 18 to 13.

WINTER

TOWN HALL MEETING



Saturday

January 27, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Coffee before
and lunch
following
the meeting**

**Bethune United Church,
Baysville
Stay tuned for updates**

United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Helping Lake of Bays Residents

Lake of Bays has so much to offer. It features the rugged Canadian shield, picturesque windswept pines, and, of course, world class waterfront. It is the perfect place to enjoy a sunset, an early morning paddle, or fishing off a dock.

Sadly, many who live in this community year-round are struggling to make ends meet. Consider the following for a moment:

■ 50% of renters and almost 20% of homeowners spend more than 30% of their household income on shelter meaning they are at risk of becoming homeless.

■ 1 in 8 individuals are experiencing food insecurity.

■ 13% of Muskoka residents are living in poverty (which is significantly higher than the Provincial rate of 8.3%).

United Way Simcoe Muskoka is working hard to reverse some of these trends. Here are some examples of com-

munity investments your United Way is making across the District of Muskoka:

■ We have provided \$300,000 in funding over the past three years to the YWCA for their "Circles Muskoka" program which supports individuals transitioning from poverty to possibility.

■ Last year we provided \$16,500 in micro-grants to low-income residents in Muskoka to address unplanned emergency expenses and connected individuals to \$51,995 in grants to help low-income households cover the cost of increased energy bills through the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

■ We committed \$390,000 to charities addressing housing and homelessness in Muskoka and another \$169,506 to Muskoka based charities and not-for-profits to support their recovery from the pandemic over the next year.

But to continue this work in Muskoka, we need your help. Please consider United Way Simcoe Muskoka in your year-end charitable giving, because when we work together to address complex community issues the results are game changing.

To make a charitable donation go to uwsimcoemuskoka.ca/give

Brian Shelley

Chief Executive and Philanthropy Officer
United Way Simcoe Muskoka


Bshelley@uwsimcoemuskoka.ca 



United Way
Centraide
Simcoe Muskoka

Area Stewards are keeping LOBA Strong

Did you know that a team of fifty volunteer Area Stewards, works around the lake welcoming new residents to our Lake of Bays community? They help keep the Lake of Bays Association strong by ensuring each area has a local representative. They provide information to residents and channel any concerns you may have, back to the LOBA Board of Directors. They help promote a sense of community and contribute to preserving and enhancing the beauty of our lake and its surroundings. They work hard! We would like to thank each and every one of our Area Stewards for their hours of work in the 2023 membership year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Area Stewards program, please contact Heather Yates, the Area Stewards Coordinator at heatherdyates@gmail.com. 



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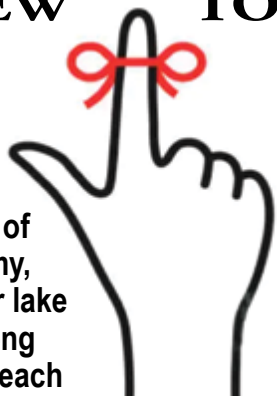
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Don't forget!
It's time to renew your LOBA
membership for
2024
RENEW TODAY!

Your membership fee supports our efforts to educate, advocate and engage in issues that impact the sustainability of the environment, economy, and natural beauty of our lake community. Where a strong united voice is required, each member counts.



Go to loba.ca to renew/join and pay online or download a membership form to renew by mail.

Questions about your membership?
Please contact the office at 705-767-3395 or by email at admin@loba.ca

Support Businesses that Support LOBA

We know you like to support local businesses and particularly those who support your lake association! When you are looking for a service provider or retailer refer to the 2023 Yearbook or the back page of any Current Connection newsletter.

Advertising in the 2024 Annual is now open. Contact Bryan Dearsley at bdearsley@live.ca.

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 ■ info@loba.ca ■ loba.ca ■ www.facebook.com/lobaontario/ ■ [@lakeofbaysassociation](https://twitter.com/lakeofbaysassociation)



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