

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.

## Linda McBurney

### 2015 Betty Day Award Winner

Congratulations to Linda McBurney, winner of this year's Betty Day Award, presented at the Lake of Bays Association (LOBA) Annual Meeting in Dwight.

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. Betty was a dedicated, committed volunteer who set a very high standard in all that she did. In her memory, the Betty Day award is presented annually to a member of LOBA whose volunteer activities have significantly furthered the goals of the Association.

Linda McBurney has been vital to the communications of the Lake of Bays Association for the last 15 years. Everyone who has visited our website, or clicked "read more" on a LOBA Newsflash has been touched by her work. Linda joined the Membership Services Committee in 2000 and created LOBA's first website. Since then, she has served as LOBA's webmaster, posting content and participating in every update and rendition of the website, sometimes with the assistance of web design companies. This is quite an accomplishment for someone with no formal background in computers. Linda studied food chemistry at the University of Toronto before going on to work with the former Department of Health and Welfare, and then the Department of National Defence where she spent the majority of her career as a research biochemist. But she was up for a challenge and continues to enjoy learning to use new web platforms and participating as

a volunteer on LOBA's Communications Committee.

Linda is a lifelong cottager on Lake of Bays, first at her grandfather's cottage and then at her own cottage that she purchased in the 1990s next door to her grandfather's property. Her love of the lake and work as an Area Steward for eight years gives Linda valuable insight that helps to keep our communications relevant to our membership. The Lake of Bays Association is lucky to have Linda McBurney on our team. Thank you Linda!

*Linda McBurney was presented with the Betty Day Award at the LOBA AGM on July 11th in Dwight.*



## SAVE THIS DATE

### Lake of Bays Association Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 23, 2015 10:30 a.m.–noon Dwight Senior's Centre

Lunch served following

Please join LOBA's Board of Directors to hear about what's happening in and around Lake of Bays. Our local politicians and other invited guests will be there to talk about local issues and hot topics. Continue the conversation over coffee and sandwiches following the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend this open meeting.

Watch for details on [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca).

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## President's Message

by Ian Beverley

It is early October already—although it's hard to tell from the colour of the trees at Lake of Bays. Summer weather stayed with us for most of September. What a great summer it was and goodness knows it was overdue after the harsh winter last year and the several less-than-stellar summers in recent years. I hope everyone had time to enjoy it. There is no better place that I know of to watch the sun go down on a summer evening.

LOBA continued to work for its members during this wonderful time. Our Membership Committee, chaired by Jim Metcalfe and his team of Area Stewards, did an outstanding job keeping our membership base strong. It stands at 1270 members, which represents approximately two thirds of property owners on the lake. Our Area Stewards, who canvass their neighbours to encourage them to join LOBA, deserve enormous credit for our membership total. Other cottage groups have tried to duplicate what they do but nobody does it better. In addition to his role as Membership Chair, Jim Metcalfe has also accepted the role of LOBA Vice-President with a view to succeeding me when my term of office expires at the Annual General Meeting next July.

LOBA has been present and active in the community in other ways throughout the summer as well. Together with FOCA, we sponsored a highly successful Cottage Succession Planning Seminar in Baysville on August 8th and we also had a booth at the Baysville Walkabout in early August. Continuing our commitment to community-based projects, LOBA made a donation towards an educational display on solar power that will be installed in the Baysville Library by the Lake of Bays Renewable Energy Co-op. Together with our sister organization, the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF), we organized another successful Silent Boat Rally on August 1st which launched this year from the newly acquired LBHF property at the foot of the Marsh's Falls on the Oxtongue River.

On the municipal planning side, our Land Use Planning Committee participat-



ed in the Official Plan review process and encouraged members to participate in this important process. Another current matter that they are dealing with is a proposal to expand the use of ATVs to all Township and District Roads in the Township of Lake of Bays. Information on this proposal is available on our website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)) and on the Township website ([www.lake-ofbays.on.ca](http://www.lake-ofbays.on.ca)) for your review. We will be updating members on the status of the proposed new ATV bylaw following the October 20th council meeting—look for the update on [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca). We are also monitoring the new lighting system on the Rogers Tower on Fox Point that is significantly brighter and more intrusive than the previous system. Read more about this issue under the “You Asked” section of this publication.

The Environment Committee has been busy too. The “Love Your Lake” property surveys were completed this summer and our Water Quality volunteers were out on the water collecting samples. Be sure to read the updates on these programs and Environment Chair Caroline Konarzewski's article on invasive species in this issue of Current Connection.

It was a great summer in so many ways. Too bad it's over.

Until next time.

*Ian Beverley*

## It's Time to Renew...

### EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE PRIZES for payments received by DECEMBER 11th!

Enclosed with this issue of Current Connection is an invoice for your 2016 Lake of Bays Association membership. 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 of this invoice by the **December 31st due date** is deeply appreciated.

If your membership renewal is **received by December 11th**, 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 \$800*
- *Beaver Lever—hearthside kindling cutter—valued at \$180*
- *Old Mill Marina—\$125 Gift Certificate for gas or any in-store item*
- *Port Cunnington Lodge—\$125 Gift Certificate towards Dinner for Two*
- *Rafters (Baysville or Dorset store)—\$100 Gift Certificate*
- *Dwight Garden Centre—\$50 Gift Certificate*
- *Lake of Bays Brewing Company—\$40 Gift Certificate*
- *Oxtongue Craft Cabin & Gallery—\$35 Gift Certificate*

Thank you to these local businesses for supporting our 2016 membership drive!

Don't wait. Renew today! Pay by mail (cheque or credit card) or pay online by going to [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca). We are working on adding a RENEW button to make it quick and easy for existing members to renew online, especially if you don't have any contact information changes. If the RENEW button is not live by November 1st, then simply click on JOIN and fill out a 2016 Membership Form if you prefer to pay online rather than by mail. Questions about your renewal? Contact Beverley Govan at 705-767-3395 or email her at [info@loba.ca](mailto:info@loba.ca).

# WATER QUALITY UPDATE

By Deb Cumming, Environment Committee

LOBA's water quality program is on schedule with monitoring and testing (we had a good season in 2015 that included benthic invertebrate sampling) but it is a little behind in its reporting. The 2014 report has been finalized and is on the website for those who would like more detail, but here are the highlights of the results from the analysis of 2014 numbers and from trend analysis since the program began.

The overarching message is that the consultants, Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd (HES), are very happy with the 2014 Lake of Bays phosphorus numbers. Total phosphorus concentrations are at levels characteristic of lakes with low primary phosphorus production and meet provincial and District of Muskoka standards for excellent water quality. These are the standards that protect against nuisance aquatic plant growth *due to phosphorus* (note that this does NOT mean no algal blooms—sun, temperature and wind conditions can all conspire naturally to create algal blooms without excessive phosphorus!). The 2014 phosphorus numbers for the lake sites, at a mean of 5.2 mg/litre, are very good (the District sets 10 mg/litre as its ceiling for an 'excellent' rating) and we can have confidence in that number as HES continues to do quality control on our sampling procedures and we have again passed with flying colours!

So, while the macro message is unchanged and there are low levels of phosphorus in Lake of Bays water meaning excellent water quality for recreational use and for biodiversity, there is, as always, some interesting information generated by site differences, trends over time etc.

- We are delighted to advise that the elevated phosphorus levels recorded in Portage Bay in 2013 (not to problem levels but there was a distinct increase that had us wondering) were likely attributable to the construction activity occurring in the bay at that time; phosphorus levels were back to normal in 2014. The lesson learned here is that the lake MUST be safeguarded during shoreline construction activity!
- We observed no significant differences between near shore undisturbed sites,

near shore disturbed sites and deep water sites suggesting that shoreline activity is not materially impacting phosphorus levels. This is a VERY good thing and we should be proud of our light impact on lake health but we should NOT be complacent. There are a lot of stresses on the lake caused by development pressures and climate change and we need to continue to protect water quality.

- HES, after much deliberation over the numbers and their meaning, has concluded that there is a significant increasing trend in mean summer total phosphorus in Haystack Bay that is impacting water in the main Lake east and west of Bigwin Island. Again, this is not a problem (HES has done some extra analysis on Haystack Bay numbers and feels confident that the increases are NOT a result of phosphorus inputs from human sources) but it is an interesting illustration of the complexity of water quality. Haystack Bay is a relatively small body of water relative to the rest of the lake and it doesn't provide any material source water to

the lake (the Oxtongue River is the primary source; Hollow River is a secondary source). But Haystack Bay, for its modest size, collects A LOT of overland flow from its immediate watershed and that flow is adding phosphorus to the lake.

The 2015 phosphorus numbers are just in from the Ministry of the Environment and Trent University and will soon be collated and analysed. In 2015, as in 2014, we decided to test only phosphorus; our bacterial numbers have been so consistent for so long that the consultants have suggested that we can reduce the frequency of bacterial testing without jeopardizing our data flow or the viability of our testing program.

We added benthic invertebrate testing back to the mix (best described as sampling for larval bugs in the substrate) and that report will be provided to the membership when it is complete. I would like to thank Andrew Farley for his participation in the benthic analysis. His enthusiasm, energy and genuine interest really helped us move that project through.

## MORE AREA STEWARDS NEEDED

### Please consider joining our team of volunteers

LOBA is seeking volunteers to help with our area stewards program for 2016. In particular we need more Area Stewards. Area Stewards are the most important link between our Board and the nearly 1300 families who are members of the Lake of Bays Association. Area Stewards provide a point-of-contact for LOBA in the many neighbourhoods, roads and bays around the lake, deliver Welcome Packages to new property owners, and provide LOBA with feedback on issues that are important to residents in their area.

We welcome new volunteers from anywhere on our lake, but the areas of greatest need are:

Muskoka Road 117; Osbourne Point; Cliffdene Road; Bigwin Island  
Bobshire Road and Patrick Road.

If you would like more information about volunteering or about what is involved in becoming an Area Steward please contact Jim Metcalfe, Membership Chair at [jim-metcalfe58@gmail.com](mailto:jim-metcalfe58@gmail.com), Phone: 416-922-0543 or Wendy Gibson, Executive Coordinator at [executivecoor@loba.ca](mailto:executivecoor@loba.ca), Phone: 905-888-1619.

This is a great opportunity for you to join the over 60 volunteers who give their time to help the Lake of Bays Association achieve our purpose to **"promote, maintain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays."**



## Update on Proposed Changes to the Lake of Bays Official Plan: Report on Public Meeting Held August 26th

By Brian Simpson and Barry Morrison,  
Co-chairs Planning

The Township of Lake of Bays held a Statutory Public meeting on August 26th on the proposed changes to the Official Plan (the key policy direction document for planning and land use in the Township). This meeting provided an opportunity for all to ensure that the current changes to the Lake of Bays Official Plan reflect the needs and aspirations of our community. Approximately 50 residents attended the meeting and LOBA repeated its environmental concerns regarding the reduction in the size of waterfront back lots and to support the retention of 20m and 30m shoreline setbacks for waterfront development to protect lake health. As well, LOBA reiterated the need to have extensive shallow waters considered as an environmental constraint for the development of extensive docks and boathouses.

Approximately 67 LOBA members sent in letters of concern regarding proposed

changes to the Official Plan, with the main issue being the proposed reduction to the size of waterfront back lots from ten to seven acres. According to the Township clerk only one letter was received in support of the proposed reduction in the back lot size.

Several other members of the public, independent of LOBA, came forward at the meeting to ask what the planning rationale was for the proposed reduction in the size of waterfront back lots. No further clarification was provided at the meeting as to why the reduction was proposed, although the mayor indicated that a member of council initially brought it up. No one spoke in favour of either reducing the size of waterfront back lots or of standardizing the shoreline setback to 20m for development on a waterfront property. Expanding the Development Permit system to the communities and rural sections of the township did not appear to be an issue of public concern. Finally, members of Council asked no questions, so we

believe our position on back lots and the other issues were clear and understood.

Planning staff will now present a staff report on the Official Plan at Council this fall. The staff report will identify the substantive changes since the last public meeting and also staff's recommended approach to sensitive issues. At that meeting, Council may have other changes and must agree as a whole to these changes. Ideally, staff can make them and have the Official Plan ready for adoption by the end of the year. The entire document will be approved, not individual components or sections.

At the time of writing, the latest version of the Official Plan Amendment document was unavailable and had not yet been brought back to council. LOBA will keep our members advised by electronic Newsflash and updates will be posted on the News & Events page of our website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)), so please check our website for the latest information.

### Thank you H<sub>2</sub>O Team

I would be remiss in closing the Water Quality Report without thanking my H<sub>2</sub>O team for 2015—great commitment to the cause, great attitude (we had a LOT of lousy weather on testing days this year) and great field researchers with high quality control marks from HES. I could not administer this program without them and would like to express my appreciation to the team and encourage the membership to do the same.

Jill Turner and family: Emma is the third Turner to participate (Douglas and Paul preceded her but still help out) and the family is coming close to 10 years of involvement and commitment.

Michelle Tompkins: Michelle is also a 'third kid', following very capably in the footsteps of her brothers Nicolas and Alexander. Her father Paul has stayed connected with the program since Nicolas's early days and is a bona fide sampler in his own right. This family is also approaching 10 years of participation.

Penny Thomas: Penny does all her testing alone (which can be tough on wind-tossed days and has been with the program for about 4 years).

Andrew Farley: Andrew Farley is in his second year as an H<sub>2</sub>O tester and also did benthics this year (and has already signed up to do benthics again next year!). A thank you to Mike, Andrew's dad, who filled in very capably when Andrew was at camp.

Paul Fraser: Paul's daughter Meredith is very interested in environmental science and sampled in 2014. Meredith was away on a research project this summer and unable to sample for us herself but she volunteered her father! Paul, very graciously, took on the testing job solo and did a great job.

I, the LOBA membership and anybody who cares about the health of Lake of Bays are indebted to these families for the time and commitment they give to the water quality program.

Deb Cumming, Water Quality Program Coordinator

# Invasive Species: Hitchhikers We Don't Want

By Caroline Konarzewski, Environment Chair

We hear a lot about invasive species but what are they and what can we do about them?

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals, including aquatic plants and fish that can harm the environment, the economy and human health. They tend to grow very quickly choking out, competing with, and chasing away native species. In their country of origin these species are kept in check by natural predators and diseases but have no enemies in their new territory where they grow out of control. They can destroy biodiversity, damage infrastructure, cause injury (the sap of Giant Hogweed and Wild Parsnip burns the skin), affect natural beauty, and reduce property values. They are extremely difficult and costly to eradicate.

Some invasive species in the news include Common Buckthorn, Dog-strangling Vine, Giant Hogweed, Japanese Hogweed and Phragmites. These are often spread when seeds or pieces of roots and stems are picked

up in dirt and mud outside of Muskoka and brought up here on our vehicles. The very tall reeds that you see in the ditches all the way up HWY 401 and HWY 11 right into Huntsville are the invasive species Phragmites that were spread that way.

You can play a critical role in slowing down the spread of these unwanted species.

- Do not move firewood into or outside Muskoka. Bugs and diseases that attack trees hide inside only to escape into their new location.
- Do not transport topsoil from outside Muskoka. Bugs and diseases are transported that way, too.
- Ensure that your landscaping plans do not include any invasive plants. Buy them from a reputable nursery where they know what they are selling. If a friend gives you plants, cuttings or seeds be sure that none of them are invasive species.

- Bait should not include exotic round goby fish or rusty crayfish. Drain your bait bucket on land.
- Wash off your boat whenever you move it from one water body to another.
- Before heading to the cottage from the city or from anywhere outside of your immediate cottage neighbourhood wash everything that might transport seeds, and pieces of stems or roots. That includes boots, hiking shoes, the dog's muddy paws, bicycles, motor-bikes, snowmobiles, cars, trucks, 4 wheel drives and ATVs. See the Look Before You Leave poster in this issue of Current Connection.

Do your bit to protect your cottage property. Don't give those hitchhiking invasive species a free ride!

## Look Before You Leave!

Invasive Species may be joining you on vacation.

When you load up for the cottage or camping trip, you could unknowingly be carrying stowaways (invasive species). An invasive species is a plant or animal that has been introduced to an area outside its normal geographic range and threatens the health of our natural areas by outcompeting native species for food and habitat.

**1. Bikes:** Mud can carry seeds of invasive plants such as garlic mustard and dog-strangling vine.  
**Clean bikes before moving them to new locations.**

**2. Pets:** Invasive seeds can be carried in fur and mud on pets. **Remove seeds and mud from your pets.**

**3. Firewood:** Invasive insects like the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle can be carried in firewood. **Buy wood locally.**

**4. ATVs:** Mud on ATVs and trail equipment can harbour invasive plant seeds.  
**Clean ATV's before transport.**

**5. Boots:** Muddy boots can carry seeds and insects.  
**Clean your boots before going to a new location.**

**6. Garden Plants:** Some ornamental plants may be invasive. Soil can carry seeds of invasive plants, exotic earthworms, or European fire ants.  
**Look for and use non-invasive plants.**

**7. Bait:** Bait should not include exotic round gobies or rusty crayfish, and bait buckets should be drained on land. **Don't dump your bait.**

**8. Watercraft:** Boats and other watercraft can carry invasive plants, zebra mussels and earwigs.  
**Inspect, clean and drain your boat before moving to a new water body.**

**9. Patio Furnitures:** Lawn chairs and patio furniture can harbour invasive insects such as European earwigs or the seeds of invasive plants.  
**Clean your furniture before transporting it.**

**Clean equipment before transport**  
**Plant non-invasive plants**  
**Groom your pet after hiking**  
**Don't dump your bait**  
**Buy wood locally**  
**Inspect, clean and drain your boat**

Ontario  
Invasive Plant Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to see THE INTERACTIVE POSTER, GO TO [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)



## You Asked...

*Why is there so much more algae and other slimy growth on the rocks in our lake than there was years ago?*

Many of us recall the days when rocks and ladders were never slippery or slimy. You could easily walk or dive from them without slipping and they felt 'clean' to touch. The increase in algae is a concern that has been raised frequently by members in recent years and some have asked if this might be due to an increase in phosphorus in the lake.

LOBA tests the water quality of Lake of Bays regularly and, although phosphorus levels are slightly higher than they were years ago, the present phosphorus levels in Lake of Bays are well within appropriate levels.

Our lake is what is called an oligotrophic lake. This means that it has low levels of nutrients, particularly phosphorus. However, having been asked about slimy rocks, LOBA'S Environment Committee decided to dig a little deeper for more information.

In the 1960s and '70s, prior to emission control regulation, acid rain had a negative impact on the health of all the lakes in the Canadian Shield. Many organisms, such as algae, that support aquatic life were killed off by it. This was great if you don't like the feel of slimy rocks, but it was a problem for the health of the rest of the lake. Algae feeds small vertebrates, which feed small fish, which feed larger fish, and on up the food chain. Algae help maintain a healthy, productive lake. Without the algae, the food chain is interrupted and we lose that healthy balance.

The fact that we are seeing slippery, rocks in our lake means that a better balance has been achieved and that is good news.

Some may argue that fish counts are down and crayfish are few and far between. This is true. There are other issues that have an effect on the health of the critters in our lake. Among those issues, calcium levels are declining, salt levels are increasing and dissolved oxygen levels are changing. These are all important issues that we need to be aware of and monitor. For starters, see the inset on this page about one simple thing you can do to help increase the calcium levels in our lake.



### Help to Reduce Calcium Loss in Our Lake

Save the ash from those cozy fall and winter fires in your cottage fireplace or woodstove. The ash contains valuable calcium that had been trapped in the wood you burned. When the ash has cooled (outside on the ground or on a rock, never indoors or on a wood surface) scatter it somewhere on your property or a nearby woodlot (with permission, of course). The calcium will slowly be leached back into the lake where it is needed.

## You Asked...

*Why has the lighting on the Fox Point Road cell tower changed? In addition to the red light at the top of the tower, there is now a second, much brighter red light halfway up the tower and the light shines down on the water.*

After receiving complaints from residents across the lake from the Rogers cell tower on Fox Point Road, LOBA contacted Tatyana Moro, Municipal Relations Specialist with Rogers Communications. Her response is printed below.

"The tower on Fox Point had to be retrofitted with a new system recently, which requires 2 levels of beacons on any towers higher than 107m. As the tower is 111m the new system had to be implemented, as the original tower lighting system was no longer complying with government regulations and new mandates.

"The following is what the new requirement is:

1. (2) levels of beacons (flashing red at night)—(1 on top of tower & 2 at mid-level)
2. (2) levels of red steady lights—(1/4 &

3/4 height of tower)

"I hope this answers your questions on the reasoning for the light changes. Unfortunately, this was a requirement from the government agencies that are responsible for Aerodrome safety. This jurisdiction falls exclusively under NAV Canada and Transport Canada and Rogers' Spectrum license obligations are to comply with Transport Canada/ NAV CANADA aeronautical safety requirements. Rogers has no input into what type of lighting is required. Furthermore, Rogers also has no input into the light intensity, as this is mandated for air traffic safety.

"While I understand that some other towers in the area may not seem as intense, I believe that perception could be attributed to either elevation of the towers, where residences are located or its proximity to the lake, where some vegetation may provide a buffer.

Our vendors and technicians assessed the shrouding possibility. As per my previous correspondence, the new LED systems are designed to have no down scattering, therefore the shrouding is only feasible when the residences at the bottom of the tower are affected by the scatter. If the shrouding is installed at the midpoint in order to mitigate the light intensity, it may actually hinder on air safety as the shroud at this point would also block the light to flying pilots from some perspectives. Therefore, our suppliers have confirmed that this option is unfortunately not feasible and would not be supported by the regulatory bodies. In addition, our technician has noted that there were some installation issues with these shrouds in the past due to possibilities of them coming loose and flying off the towers. Due to this particular safety concern, it is my understanding that Bell is reviewing their shrouding as well and have had to remove some of these from their towers." Tatyana Moro, Municipal Relations Specialist, Rogers Communications ([Tatyana.Moro@rci.rogers.com](mailto:Tatyana.Moro@rci.rogers.com)).

LOBA remains concerned about this issue and is also aware that the lights on this tower were malfunctioning periodically (this now appears to be resolved). However, where cell tower lighting has the potential to cause adverse impacts on resi-

*continued on page 7*

## Have You Ordered Your Love Your Lake Property Report?

Another 1,350 Love Your Lake property surveys were completed this summer, for a total of 2,100 surveys over two seasons, which means that the entire lake (except for the river into Baysville) has been surveyed. Our sincere thanks to Dan Vancleef and his boat captain Heather Dixon for braving the elements for two summers to get the job done. No doubt they know their way around Lake of Bays after this huge undertaking!

Now that the entire shoreline of Lake of Bays has been assessed from the water, using a standardized assessment protocol, every property owner can receive their property's report, which consists of observations on the state of their shoreline, as well as suggestions for shoreline improvement. These simple, recommended actions are intended to help protect and enhance shoreline and lake health. Your property report is confidential and only you have access to it.

The property reports for the properties assessed in 2014 are available now. They include the shoreline starting from the Government Dock on South Portage Road (behind Langmaid's Island) through the channel into Whiskey Bay, then moving down toward the mouth of the South Muskoka River, along the South Shore to Dorset and along the northeast shore of Trading Bay to Rabbit Bay. If your property was assessed in 2014 you should have received a letter from the Muskoka Watershed Council last spring (mailed to the address on your property tax bill) with information on how to order your personalized property report either online or by mail. If you did not receive the letter, or have misplaced it, you can still order your property report. Please contact Rebecca Willison at 705-646-0111 or [rwillison@muskokawatershed.org](mailto:rwillison@muskokawatershed.org) to get your survey code. If you received your letter but have had trouble ordering your report, please contact Rebecca for assistance.

The owners of properties assessed in 2015 will receive a letter in the spring of 2016 with information on how to order their property report. LOBA will let you know when the letters have been mailed.

The Lake of Bays Association does not have access to individual property reports; however, we will receive a report with lake-wide data, which provides a good benchmark for measuring future changes to shoreline health. Our thanks to the Muskoka Watershed Council who coordinated this program on behalf of the World Wildlife Federation and the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds. Now it's up to each of us to read our property reports and learn more about what we can do to protect the health of Lake of Bays.



## photo & visual arts contest

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

SHOW US YOUR STUFF

Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and families



### PHOTO CONTEST: Deadline December 31

Your photos must be previously unpublished and sent in high resolution, digital format to [Aben Graphics: info@abengraphics.com](mailto:info@abengraphics.com) before December 31, 2015 (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, and website.

**Life at the Lake:** People, pets, dwellings

**Nature:** Wild plants and animals

**Landscape:** Land, water, and sky



### VISUAL ARTS CONTEST: Deadline December 31

Artwork must be completed in the last 5 years and submitted by the artist in high resolution digital format to [info@abengraphics.com](mailto:info@abengraphics.com) before December 31, 2015. Subject line of email, Lake of Bays Visual Arts Contest. Contestants agree to the use of their photos in the Lake of Bays Association yearbook, newsletter, and website.

**Theme:** Inspired by Lake of Bays

**Media:** Pastels, acrylics, oils, water colours or mixed media



## You asked... *continued from page 6*

dents over a vast area, available options should be openly discussed with residents before decisions are taken so that such impacts are minimized or eliminated. LOBA's External Affairs Committee is actively following up with Rogers and Transport Canada/NAV Canada directly and will keep you posted on the outcome.



## Meet Our New Board Member...

### Bruce MacLellan

Bruce MacLellan is a business owner and entrepreneur who has worked in marketing communications consulting for over 30 years. He has been coming to Lake of Bays since 1986 when he met his wife Karen, a long-time cottager with a family history of over 110 years at the lake. Bruce is the founding CEO of Environics Communications. The firm and associated divisions now have a team of almost 200 people in Canada and the USA.

Karen and Bruce and their daughters enjoy kayaking, swimming and spending time with friends at the lake. Bruce is a passionate volunteer and has been on the board of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation since 2001. He is also a board member and Vice-Chair of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Bruce collects antique postcards of the Lake of Bays area and turned this hobby into two popular books.



## 2015–2016 Board of Directors

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Director	Bob Breithaupt	<a href="mailto:bobbrei@gmail.com">bobbrei@gmail.com</a>
Director	Fraser Govan	<a href="mailto:fgovan@cottagecountry.net">fgovan@cottagecountry.net</a>
Director	Josee Hammill	<a href="mailto:mjhammill@rogers.com">mjhammill@rogers.com</a>
Director	Bruce MacLellan	<a href="mailto:bmaclellan@environicspr.com">bmaclellan@environicspr.com</a>
Director	Mary Ann Peden	<a href="mailto:maryann_peden@hotmail.com">maryann_peden@hotmail.com</a>
Director	Linda Robinson	<a href="mailto:indaarobinson@gmail.com">indaarobinson@gmail.com</a>
Director	Marcia Watt	<a href="mailto:mwatt@tsc.on.ca">mwatt@tsc.on.ca</a>

## Silent Boat Rally—a repeat success

The Silent Boat Rally held on August 1st continues to be a popular paddling event. This year was particularly exciting because the boats launched from the property recently acquired by the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation at the base of Marsh's Falls. The wonderful weather and opportunity to access the Oxtongue River from the bottom of the falls made for a special experience. Thank you to the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation for coordinating this event with LOBA.



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**CURRENT CONNECTION** is published periodically by The Lake of Bays Association for the information of its members. Suggestions, inquiries, manuscripts, photos etc. can be sent to:

**Lake of Bays Association**  
P.O. Box 8  
Baysville, Ontario, P0B 1A0

**PHONE:** (705) 767-3395  
**FAX:** (705) 767-1044  
**E-MAIL:** [info@loba.ca](mailto:info@loba.ca)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)

**EDITOR:** SALLY COUTTS  
**PHONE:** (613) 236-0621 or (705) 635-2567  
**E-MAIL:** [sallycouths@sympatico.ca](mailto:sallycouths@sympatico.ca)

Produced on behalf of the Lake of Bays Association by Fine Impressions, Toronto, Ontario.

