

CURRENT CONNECTION

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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.

Love Your Lake

Helps Re-naturalize Three Shorelines on Lake of Bays



Three properties on Lake of Bays have improved shorelines thanks to a program implemented through Love Your Lake! With funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, two private property owners and one public park were eligible to receive a subsidy for creating or enhancing their shoreline buffers.

Dale Linton and Jacqueline Ramsay, both LOBA members, participated in the grant program last fall. They worked with the Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) to develop a shoreline planting plan to prevent erosion and improve wildlife habitat on their waterfront properties.

A third planting project was coordinated by the Lake of Bays Association in cooperation with the Township at The Bay in Baysville, a public park located on the river next to the library. About 60 plants and shrubs selected for the site's soil and light conditions and two white pine trees were planted on the hill leading down to the beach to prevent further erosion. Plans are in the works to add a picnic table next summer to make the area more inviting for swimming and picnics.

Thank you to the MWC for making these projects possible as well as Northway Gardeners which assisted with developing the planting plans and provided the plants and much of the labour for all three naturalization projects.

The Muskoka Watershed Council plans to continue this program on Lake of Bays in 2016 as funding permits. If you are interested in improving the shoreline buffer on your property, please contact info@muskokawatershed.org for more information.



L to R: Joan Bendon (LOBA volunteer, Angie Murray and Rob Allen (Northway Gardens), Gloria Woodside (LOBA volunteer), Joel Ketch (Riverstone Environmental Services) at The Bay in Baysville



The planting team at work on Dale Linton's property on Lake of Bays

Photos by Rebecca Willison, Muskoka Watershed Council

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President's Message

by Ian Beverley

What a winter we have had! February 2016 saw both the warmest and the coldest temperatures on record in Ontario. The fluctuating temperatures have made the ice and snow conditions a challenge for many recreational activities. Luckily the weather cooperated for our annual Open Winter Board Meeting on January 23 in Dwight. More than 50 people attended, including District Chair John Klinck, District Councillor Shane Baker, Area Councillor Ruth Ross and representatives of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, Peninsula Lake, Paint Lake, Muskoka Lakes Association and many LOBA members. In this edition of Current Connection you will read about LOBA's committee activities, increases in property taxes, the new ATV By-law, the ongoing review of the Lake of Bays Official Plan, and other community news and information that was shared at the winter meeting. I trust you will realize and acknowledge the great work of our many dedicated volunteers who work year round to realize the vision of LOBA in *promoting, maintaining and enhancing a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays*.

Members will note our e-Newsflashes on important matters over the past year on issues of vital interest to members and residents—particularly the new ATV By-law and the Official Plan Review process. We have requested your feedback to confirm the positions and approaches that we have taken with Township Council on these matters. The feedback we have received from our members confirms and strengthens our conviction, both as to the processes we have followed and in substantive content, of the positions taken. This sort of feedback is very important to us as we proceed forward on these and other issues.

If you have not already done so, please visit our new, enhanced website, www.loba.ca. It offers more content and improved functionality including an online renewal process. Congratulations to our Communications Committee members, Linda McBurney (our webmaster),



Jane Dupere, Wendy Gibson and the others who have completed this important work for us.

Also in this edition of Current Connection LOBA's Past President and Chair of Volunteer Relations, Ian White, has put out a call for volunteers. Volunteers are the life-blood of organizations like LOBA and there are always interesting and satisfying ways of becoming involved. Having myself been involved in organizations like LOBA for over the past 30 years, it has been my experience that the issues that volunteers at these organizations deal with are both interesting and challenging. The people who are involved are capable, warm and engaging. Overall the experience connects you to a rich community of ideas, people and interests. So, please consider Ian's request for volunteers and the positions that are available and if there is something you would like to do that is not on his list, please let him know your interest. I am sure we will find a way to get you involved in something that you will find satisfying.

Ian Beverley

SAVE THIS DATE

Lake Of Bays
Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 9, 2016

Baysville
Community Centre

Keynote Speaker:

Peter Sale

Past Chair Muskoka
Watershed Council

Topic:

**Planning for Climate
Change in Muskoka**

The climate in Muskoka is changing just as it is elsewhere. What will a warmer and slightly wetter climate mean for Muskoka's trees? What will our forests look like in 2050? The Muskoka Watershed Council has studied the climate we are likely to see at mid-century, and has assessed the impacts it will have on our environment, our infrastructure and our lives. The resulting report, titled "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka" was released in January 2016. Dr. Sale will share both the good news and bad news contained in the report and explain why its recommendations deserve careful consideration and prompt action by provincial agencies, district and municipal governments, local businesses, community groups and individual Muskokans.

More information on this presentation, the meeting agenda, and participating exhibitors will be posted on www.loba.ca and published in our summer issue of Current Connection. For now, please mark your calendar for Sat. July 9th and join us for an important, interesting, informative session!

Official Plan Amendments Finalized by Township

Council approves new land use policies

The mandate of LOBA's Planning Committee is to ensure that the natural environment and inherent beauty of Lake of Bays is maintained through the encouragement of sympathetic and sustainable development patterns and densities on private lands. So, in pursuit of this mandate, the LOBA Planning Committee monitors existing and emerging land use policies of various levels of government that can influence development trends on and around the lake.

Over the last two years the Township of Lake of Bays has undertaken a review of its Official Plan, which was last updated in 1999, and LOBA has been an active participant in this process. This has been a huge undertaking and we are happy with the overall Official Plan initiative and grateful for the effort Council and their staff put into it. We do, however, remain concerned about some decisions taken.

In November 2015, the Township of Lake of Bays Council voted to amend the Official Plan to allow a standard shoreline setback of 20 metres for new development on all lakes in the Township. Currently the standard is 20 metres for larger lakes (Lake of Bays, Dickie Lake, Echo Lake, Grandview Lake, Paint Lake, and Ril Lake) and 30 metres for smaller and more remote lakes, and lakes that are considered to be sensitive to development (approximately 90 lakes in total). Council also voted in favour of reducing the minimum required size of waterfront back lots from the current standard of 10 acres to 7 acres, while maintaining the requirement of a minimum of 134 metres (440 feet) of frontage on a year-round maintained public road. A waterfront back lot is a lot situated behind a waterfront lot and within 500 metres of the shoreline.

In voting for these amendments, Council rejected the recommendation of the township's planning staff, the recommendation of the professional planning consultant hired to facilitate the Official Plan Review (Tunnock Consulting Ltd.) and the majority of input from the public. The Lake of Bays Association advocated

strongly, in writing and in a delegation at the Statutory Public meeting, that the current standards for development setbacks and lot size be maintained. It is our position that the current standards were established to ensure the environmental integrity and unique natural character of Lake of Bays is preserved. We were disappointed in Council's decision to amend these standards.

Council also proposed a third controversial amendment to reduce the size of rural residential lots from five acres to two acres on lots that front on roads owned and maintained year round by the Township of Lake of Bays. In addition, it was proposed that the frontage along these roads be reduced from 152 metres (499 feet) to 60 metres (200 feet). The impact would be to effectively double the permitted density of rural development in the Township. At the Statutory Public meeting on January 12th, the Lake of Bays Association vigorously opposed this amendment because it has the potential to completely fragment the forested areas, and in aggregate with Council's initiated reduction in size of waterfront back lots, represents a significant departure from the current development standards that define the natural ambiance and tourist economy of Lake of Bays. Council also received opposition arguments from the township's planning staff, Tunnock Consulting Ltd., the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, the District of Muskoka, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and some residents. The proposed policy amendment was thankfully rejected by Council. LOBA's request to have Council reconsider the reduction in size of waterfront back lots was denied.

LOBA's overriding concern is that these policy changes were proposed without any supporting research or analysis. It was suggested by Council that the 30 metre setback for development on smaller lakes was based on "old science," yet new science was not presented that could reassure the public that the natural character and water quality on small lakes

would not be compromised by the reduced setback. Council's objective in proposing smaller waterfront back lots and rural lots was to provide more affordable housing. It was assumed that less expensive lots would attract or retain young families and serve to bolster the Township's economy. However, there was no convincing evidence presented that demonstrated there is a demand for these lots. To the contrary, a letter from the District of Muskoka provided an analysis that indicated there is currently a 50-year supply of vacant rural land in Muskoka.

As residents and taxpayers, it is our expectation that changes to our Official Plan be undertaken thoughtfully and carefully, using proper research and analysis. However well intended Council's goals are regarding the supply of land and affordable housing, reduced setbacks and smaller back lots could have unintended and irreversible consequences.

What's next? The amended Official Plan has been forwarded to the District of Muskoka where it will be reviewed for compliance with the District's Official Plan and all other relevant matters including Provincial policy pursuant to input from the various provincial ministries as appropriate. Upon the District's decision, dissenting individuals or organizations may consider appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board for final adjudication. LOBA will continue to monitor the comments and decisions provided by these regulatory bodies and keep our members updated via e-Newsflash bulletins, on our website and in Current Connections.

Throughout the Official Plan review process we have polled our membership and are confident that our position represents the concerns expressed by our members and their elected Board of Directors. Environmental protection is a key issue that our members expect us to stand firm on. LOBA represents our member's belief that the natural environment is our community's greatest asset for enjoyment and economic opportunity.

WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Property Tax Update

Last year, the District levy represented 47 percent of your property tax bill, the Township portion was 23 percent and the provincial government portion (for education) was 30 percent. Below is a summary of the increase for the Township and District portions of your 2016 tax bill. At the time of publication the education portion of the tax bill had not yet been determined by the province.

District of Muskoka Tax Support Budget

The 2016 proposed budget for the District of Muskoka detailed spending plans for \$115,168,482 over the year, of which \$71,000,000 would come directly from property taxes. This was amended at the February 16th District Council meeting to reduce the net levy by \$492,600, mostly by reducing the transfer of funds to reserves. The final levy increase is \$3,395,288 or 5.07 percent. Taking into consideration the estimated assessment growth of 0.96 percent, the 2016 increase is 4.07 percent higher than last year. The impact to a residential property valued at \$200,000 is an annual increase in District taxes of \$22.78. Two big items dominate the increase. The imposition of a new billing formula for OPP services accounts for 3.2 percent of the increase, and ambulance costs represent 0.7 percent of the increase. OPP and ambulance costs are determined by the province and are effectively beyond the District's control. The remaining 1.85 percent of the increase, which is within the District's ability to control, is by comparison modest and every department contributed to this restraint.

A word from District Chair John Klinck...

The District of Muskoka has no control over the cost of OPP services; it is a bill that must be paid, said Chair Klinck. While there may be opportunities to look at the way the cost is allocated across Muskoka, Mr. Klinck stressed that this is not a "towns versus townships issue, as some have presented it." Sixty-five to 70 percent of ratepayers in Muskoka are seasonal residents and the current market value assessment system is not fair to waterfront seasonal property owners, resulting in seasonal residents paying an unfair percentage of the cost of police services. Mr. Klinck further explained that within the context of the 1.85 percent budget increase that is at the discretion of District Council, 1 percent is subject to collective bargaining agreements and approximately half of the remaining 0.85 percent of the increase will go towards road improvements. Mr. Klinck noted that \$100,000 has been allocated to the District Official Plan Review which has already commenced. Mr. Klinck also advised that the Public Works Committee has been negotiating with the Ministry of Transportation about the maintenance of provincial highways in order to improve safety for traffic flowing into, out of and through Muskoka.

Township of Lake of Bays Budget

The 2016 budget for the Township was passed in December with an increase of \$403,438 (9.4 percent) over 2015. This represents a levy increase of \$23 for every \$200,000 of assessment.

The major new programs or initiatives include:

- replacement of the Public Works garage in Dwight for an estimated \$1.46 million. This is the commencement of a major reconstruction process that will see other garages replaced and/or consolidated over the next few years. The Township's garages are more than 40 years old, in poor condition and cannot accommodate the Townships trucks and other equipment.
- \$200,000 towards a construction reserve for future projects (i.e. garages and expansion of the municipal office).
- repairs to public docks and boat ramps around the Township including on Lake of Bays.
- full time Economic Development position, which is currently funded by a FedNor grant.
- operational funding for the Dorset Health Hub (+ \$18,300).

For the 2015 year end, the Township is projecting a surplus of approximately \$149,000 (unaudited). This compares with a surplus of \$213,000 in 2014. Lack of snow in November and December have contributed to cost savings.

News from District Councillor Shane Baker...

- Councillor Baker announced that the Dwight Library is in the very preliminary stages of planning an expansion. A grant from the Township will be used to engage the services of an architect.
- The new LED Community Sign in Baysville (at the junction of Highway 117 and University Street) has received approval from the District of Muskoka and will be in operation shortly. The sign, which will be used to promote community events and messages, is similar to one erected in Dwight last year. Other than the possibility of a third community sign in Dorset, Mr. Baker does not anticipate a proliferation of this type of sign in the Township, which he said he felt is inappropriate for commercial use.
- The new Muskoka Extended Transit program will use school buses, after students are delivered to school, for public transit from Dwight, Dorset and Baysville to Huntsville and Bracebridge. The shuttle service is for people without transportation or who are unable to manage winter driving conditions. The service will be provided once a week on Tuesdays.
- In response to a \$500,000 increase in ambulance services from their current third party service provider, the District of Muskoka has decided to go with a direct delivery model for ambulance services, which is expected to save \$450,000.

WINTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS *continued*

- The Friends of Muskoka Watershed is in the process of becoming a charity, which should help their fund raising efforts.
- Former District Councillor, Scott Young, who is also a Lake of Bays cottager, is the new Executive Director of the Muskoka Conservancy. Scott's long time involvement with the Muskoka Watershed Council and strong record of environmental advocacy will be a benefit to the Muskoka Conservancy and all of Muskoka.

NEW Customer Service Portal on Township Website

The Township of Lake of Bays has established a new online system for receiving questions and comments from the public and has made it a priority to provide timely responses. Go to www.lakeofbays.on.ca and click on the icon below which will appear on the revolving billboard of public notices on the home page.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LOBA Donates \$1,000 to Baysville Community Sign

LOBA is pleased to participate in the funding of the new LED Community Sign in Baysville which will be used to promote community events and messages. The balance of funding for the sign came from volunteer groups in Baysville (Baysville Community Group, Baysville Riverfront Group, Lions Club and Friends of the Baysville Library) and the Township of Lake of Bays.

Dorset Community Health Hub

Collin Reaney of the Dorset Community Partnership Fund reported that the new Dorset Community Health Hub opened in

November with a full time Nurse Practitioner and Registered Practical Nurse on staff at 1096 Main Street in Dorset. The building is owned by the Dorset Community Partnership Fund and Mr. Reaney pointed out that only 14 percent of the funding for the clinic comes from government. The Hub provides primary and preventative care for seasonal visitors and local residents who are without a family doctor. A wellness and nutrition program will start in March and additional services will be added, such as mental health programs, as funds are raised. When asked whether visiting the Health Hub will compromise a patient's relationship with their family doctor, Mr. Reaney stressed that a doctor's practice is a private enterprise and that it depends on the doctor patient relationship. He recommended that full time residents who have a family doctor seek care from them first. If that is not possible, visit the Health Hub after first informing your doctor. The intent of the Health Hub is to improve community access to health care. For more information, hours of operation or to book an appointment call (705) 766-0866.

Dorset Waterfront Plan and Downtown Study

The Dorset Community Partnership Fund, in partnership with the Township of Lake of Bays, the SS Bigwin and FedNor are pleased to announce the launch of a community-based planning strategy for Dorset's waterfront and downtown area. With funding from a FedNor grant, urbanMetrics Inc. and Dillon Consulting Ltd. have been retained to work with residents, businesses and other local stakeholders to create a vision for a dynamic, year-round waterfront and downtown experience in Dorset.

The primary objective of this study is to establish a refined land use concept that considers the following overall objectives:

- to enhance pedestrian connections between public assets and attractions;
- to promote tourism, economic development and job creations;
- to ensure shoreline preservation;
- to improve public access and visitation from cottagers and tourists;
- to ensure the public and private assets are well-positioned to support enduring community based partnerships, and
- to ensure the plan is financially sustainable for stakeholders, including taxpayers.

Collin Reaney was pleased to report that all the businesses in Dorset are participating in the study. Public participation was facilitated through an online survey conducted in February and public engagement workshops were hosted on March 1st. Stay tuned for an announcement of the final presentation date. Visit <http://www.lakeofbays.on.ca/content/waterfront-study> for up-to-date information.

Call for Volunteers

LOBA consists of a group of volunteers who are passionate about the work they do for the lake and enjoy getting to know it and their neighbours better. The Nominations Committee is seeking volunteers for Directors of the Lake of Bays Association. Each Director will serve on one of the following committees: Environment, External Affairs, Planning and Development, Membership, Communications, Finance and Safety. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information about serving on LOBA's board, on one of its committees, on the water quality testing team or as an Area Steward, please call Ian White at 416-231-9598 or email ian.white@rogers.com.

Area Stewards Needed

We are seeking people interested in being Area Stewards in all areas of the lake, but particularly in the Delbrook/Rabbit Bay area, Muskoka Rd 117 near the Pride Marina area and Bigwin Island.

Help Needed with LOBA Archives

LOBA was founded in 1927 and preserving our records is an important aspect of our work. We are looking for someone with some knowledge of both physical and digital record keeping who can help us update our archival activities.

New LOBA Invasive Species Team

See it—Record it—ID it—Report it

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of Ontario's waters and woodlands. Originating from other regions of the world, and in the absence of their natural predators or controls, they can have devastating effects on native species, habitats and ecosystems. Lake of Bays is not immune to these unwelcome invaders. There are some here already and others are threatening to move in.

LOBA is establishing an Invasive Species Team. Members of this team will be involved with learning to recognize various invasive species. They will then work on identifying, photographing and reporting invasive species found in the area. They will help to get the word out about invasive species. Eventually the group may assist in taking the first steps, with the help of the Ontario Invasive Species Council and other organizations, toward removing or controlling invasive species. Please consider getting involved. Your help is needed. Please contact Caroline Konarzewski at caromike@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a steward of nature and helping out on this team.

Off-Road Vehicles allowed on all Township roads, with some exceptions

Lake of Bays Township Council has approved a new by-law to allow off-road vehicles (ORV's) on all but 22 township roads. The roads excluded from the by-law were determined based on more than 500 emails and letters submitted by residents. In most cases, where over 50 percent of the residents on a road requested that ORV/ATV's be prohibited, the road was excluded from the by-law. The roads that were granted exception are listed on Schedule A of the new ORV By-law which is posted on the Township of Lake of Bays website (www.lakeofbays.on.ca). It is our understanding the roads excluded from the by-law will be identified by signs. Council has also provided a recommendation to the District of Muskoka that ORV's be allowed on all District roads in the Township. It is anticipated that this will be approved and LOBA will keep our members updated once that decision is made at the District level.

There was concern expressed by some councillors that not all residents were aware that 50 percent consensus was required for exclusion. Residents may still request ORV's be prohibited from their road at any time if they have the support of more than half the residents along that road. It is likely however, that the by-law will only be updated once a year, so requests for exclusion submitted in 2016 will be added to the by-law for 2017. For more information on the ORV By-law, or to find out how you can request that your road be excluded from the by-law, contact the Township Clerk, Carrie Sykes at Csykes@lakeofbays.on.ca, (705) 635-2272 EXT 236.

What you need to know about the ORV By-law

Off-road vehicles are permitted from May 1st until December 31st, sunrise to sunset, on the shoulder (or move to the right hand side of the travelled portion of the road if the shoulder is impassible or unsafe). Hunters who are lawfully hunting may operate off-road vehicles between sunset and sunrise only from September 1st until November 30th. The speed limit for off-road vehicles is 20 km per hour for roads where the speed limit is 50 km per hour or less and 50 km per hour for roads where the speed limit is greater than 50 km per hour. The Township will be requesting the District of Muskoka to pass a complementary By-law to regulate the use of off-road vehicles on District Roads in the Township of Lake of Bays. Off-road vehicles are governed by the Highway Traffic Act, meaning that drivers must be fully licensed and insured. Enforcement of these regulations is the responsibility of the OPP.

MEMBERSHIP PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting our membership drive. Over 700 members renewed for 2016 before the December 11th deadline to be eligible for eight fabulous prizes. Congratulations to the following lucky winners:

Susan and Roy Jones

Bigwin Island Golf Club (Golf Package \$800 value)

Paul and Dianne Sipprell

Beaver Lever Kindling Cutter (\$180 value)

Cathy Nystrom

Old Mill Marina (\$125 Gift Certificate)

Viktor and Sarma Damanis

Port Cunningham Lodge (\$125 Gift Certificate)

James & Janet Caskey

Rafters (\$100 Gift Certificate)

John and Helen Pennington

Dwight Garden Centre (\$50 Gift Certificate)

Matt and Francine Gaasenbeek

Lake of Bays Brewing Company (\$40 Gift Certificate)

John and Carole Malone

Oxtongue Craft Cabin (\$35 Gift Certificate)

Congratulations to our Contest Winners

Visual Arts and Photo Contest sponsored by Aben Graphics

Photo Contest Winners

Landscapes

- 1st Bill Prittie
- 2nd Jacquie Godard
- 3rd Gillian Berner

Life at the Lake

- 1st Madelaine Fulford
- 2nd Pat Sims-Eastwood
- 3rd Emily Pritchard

Nature

- 1st Susan Johnson
- 2nd Joan Bendon
- 3rd Carly Poremba

Aben
graphics ltd.

Visual Arts Contest Winners

- 1st Brenda Turnour
- 2nd and 3rd Janeva Faircloth

An exhibit of the 1st place photos and artwork is planned for the Dwight and Baysville libraries this summer. Thank you to Aben Graphics for sponsoring the exhibit and awarding the winners with a mounted poster of their winning photo or painting. And thank you to our members and their families who submitted more than 130 images for our judges to choose from. Lake of Bays never fails to inspire as a subject for the camera lens or paint brush, and selecting the winners is never easy. Look for the winning entries in the 2016 yearbook, along with many of the other contest entries. Nothing describes our lake better than the pictures taken by you and we use them in our yearbook, newsletter, website and e-newsflash. So start clicking now for the 2016 contest!

Solutions
for a
WARMING WORLD

MUSKOKA SUMMIT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

2016
MAY 27-28

RENE CAISSE THEATRE
BRACEBRIDGE

FEATURING:

- ANDY HEINTZMAN
- STEWART ELGIE
- ELIZABETH MAY
- DAVID MILLER
- CATHERINE POTVIN
- NIGEL ROULET

PANEL SESSION MODERATED BY
CBC RADIO'S PAUL KENNEDY!

REGISTER AT
WWW.MUSKOKASUMMIT.ORG

Last call to renew before the Yearbook goes to press...

If you have not yet renewed your LOBA membership for 2016, please do so before March 31st to have your name included in the Membership Directory of the 2016 Yearbook.

To renew by mail: Go to www.loba.ca, click on the 'RENEW' button to PRINT and MAIL a membership form with payment by cheque or credit card.

To renew online: Go to www.loba.ca, click on the 'RENEW' button and fill in the online submission form. Proceed to "CHECKOUT" to pay using PayPal's secure payment system. You do not need a PayPal account to pay online. Just click on the "Don't have a PayPal Account?" option below the PayPal log-in form to pay with any major credit card.

Questions? Please email us at info@loba.ca or call (705) 767-3395. Please let us know if you wish to have someone else in your family be the point of contact for LOBA, or if you have sold your property.

LOBA has represented the interests of property owners on Lake of Bays since 1927 and we are currently the third largest lake association in Ontario. On behalf of the 2016 Board of Directors, thank you for re-joining us and contributing to our ongoing efforts and collective voice.

Lake of Bays Mapping Project

Greg Betteridge, a retired Senior Fisheries Specialist with the Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit of the Ministry of Natural Resources, has undertaken a project to publish and sell an updated depth map of Lake of Bays. The most recent depth map of Lake of Bays was published in the 1960's using old technology. With current GPS mapping tools, Greg has collected more than 200,000 data points and travelled the entire 206 kilometres of the lake's shoreline to generate very accurate data for his new map, which includes all 29 islands on Lake of Bays. At the time of the LOBA Winter Meeting, Greg was seeking input so that he could include the historical names and landmarks on the map. He has partnered with Jeff McMurtry, who makes waterproof maps for canoe routes in Algonquin Park (see Jeff's Map <http://www.algonquinmap.com>). The Lake of Bays map will use the same waterproof, rip proof coating so that the map can be used either in the boat or mounted on the wall of your home or cottage. Stay tuned. LOBA will keep you updated on the release of this exciting new map, which is expected to be ready this spring.

What's new on www.loba.ca?

Everything! Our website has been updated for optimal function on all devices, so now you can easily navigate www.loba.ca on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop. Response to our e-newsflash has been strong and growing, so we have dedicated our home page to current news and events bulletins. And now other members of your family can ask to be added to our e-news distribution list by filling out the "SUBMIT" form at the bottom of the home page. We have also streamlined the online renewal process by adding a "RENEW" button, and advertisers can use the "ADVERTISE" button to submit their advertising order form online. But much of the content that our members have told us they like has remained the same, so it still feels like home. For example we still have the Bigwin webcam link on our site so you can visit the lake anytime from where ever you are. Check it out at www.loba.ca.



Ironman Muskoka Cancelled

Ironman 70.3 Muskoka to Continue

The Ironman Muskoka triathlon that was hosted for the first time by Huntsville and Lake of Bays in August 2015 has been cancelled. Although the inaugural event was deemed a success with 1,474 competitors, event organizers cite low registration for the 2016 event and the high cost of hosting it as the reasons for the decision. The course was also considered to be very challenging for competitors. The Ironman 70.3 Muskoka, which uses the same course but only runs for half the distance, is not affected by this decision and will be held for the 8th consecutive year on Sunday July 10. Deerhurst Resort serves as the headquarters for the race and the course consists of a 2 km swim on Peninsula Lake, a 94km bike ride around Lake of Bays and a 20 km run from Deerhurst to Huntsville and back to finish. Last year the Ironman 70.3 Muskoka had 1,622 competitors. Information on how you can get involved as a volunteer will be posted on the LOBA website this spring.

Current Connection by Email or Snail Mail?

If you have received this issue of Current Connection by mail and wish to receive it by email instead, please email us at info@loba.ca and we will ensure your next issue is delivered electronically.



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