

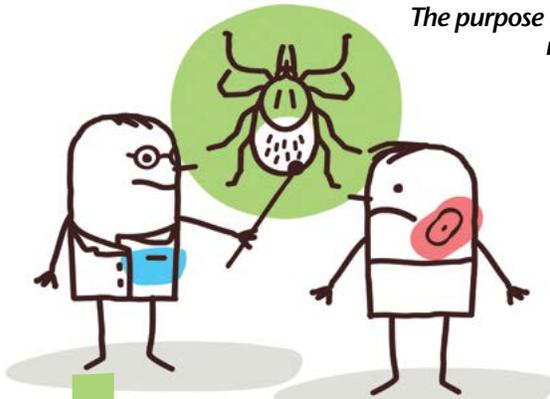
current connection

THE LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. 28, NO. 3

FALL ISSUE 2017

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



lyme

DISEASE IN MUSKOKA

From 2012 to 2016, there have been 19 cases of Lyme disease reported in the regions of Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka.

One case reported living in Muskoka at the time of illness, however, none of these cases reported the District of Muskoka as an exposure location. An exposure location is any location reported by the case that could be a potential source for where the person acquired the illness.

For 2017 to date, eleven cases of Lyme disease have been reported, two of which are residents of the District of Muskoka.

However, no cases have been linked to exposure locations in the District of Muskoka.

More than 400 ticks were submitted to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit between 2012 and 2016. Approximately 80 submissions were locally acquired black-legged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), only 6% of which tested positive for the bacteria (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) that causes Lyme disease.

Fifteen percent of all locally-acquired black-legged ticks submitted to the health unit were found in the District of Muskoka; however, none of those black-legged ticks tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Source: Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit

For more information go to

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's website:

smdhu.org and their

Healthstats website: simcoemuskokahealthstats.org/topics/infectious-diseases/i-p/lyme-disease

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare

Planning together for our future generations

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) is creating a long-term vision of how hospital services should be delivered in the year 2030 and beyond.

Currently there are two hospitals serving Muskoka and area in Huntsville and Bracebridge. However, both buildings are getting old and fall short of current planning standards. Standards in health care continue to evolve and aging buildings are not as adaptable.

For instance, based on the volumes of people served today, the buildings would have to be 50% to 70% larger to meet current standards. Demand for services will change in the future, especially as the local system transforms

through MAHST (Muskoka and Area Health System Transformation). With ever-changing technology, buildings that can accommodate the newest equipment are needed.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) requires MAHC to explore all potential models for future service delivery, even if they are unpopular. Looking out to 2030 and beyond, MAHC is considering three potential models for the future:

Continued next page

Is what you are burning safe?

There's nothing better than sitting in front of a fireplace or woodstove enjoying its warmth; as the leaves are turning, the temperature is dropping and winter is on its way. But is what you are burning safe? Are you adding unnecessary pollutants to the air?

DO BURN

- ✓ newspaper
- ✓ dry kindling and all-natural fire starters
- ✓ dry seasoned wood
- ✓ manufactured logs made from 100 percent compressed sawdust



DO NOT BURN

- ✗ pressure treated wood
- ✗ manufactured wood products—plywood or particleboard
- ✗ compressed paper products—egg cartons
- ✗ coloured & glossy paper
- ✗ plastic or plastic coated materials
- ✗ household waste

And when the fire is done, use that ash to help renew calcium in our lakes. Trapped calcium is released from wood when it is 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.

Continued from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare

Two sites-not status quo

The first potential model would be to maintain two sites with Emergency Departments, recognizing the need to further consolidate programs and services across the two sites. Recent examples of single sited services include Gynecological Surgery, Ophthalmology (cataract surgery), and Chemotherapy. Service siting would be based on clinical needs and service co-location requirements to create greater efficiencies, larger volumes and critical mass, and reducing duplication of staffing and equipment.

One site inpatient-One site outpatient

The second potential model is to maintain two facilities with emergency care. One site would have a primarily outpatient focus (few or no beds) and could include services such as

some day surgery, specialty diagnostics (such as MRI), clinics (such as Dialysis), etc. The other site would have a primarily inpatient focus (majority of beds) and could include inpatient services such as medical/surgical care, intensive care and obstetrics.

One hospital-centrally located

The final potential model is to provide all programs and services in a single hospital site. Comprehensive work would be done to determine the role of potential vacated building(s) including the ability to support local urgent and primary care needs, community services, Health Hub development, or other alternative models. This exploration will include determining best ways to support access for urgent care needs.

When will a decision be made?

MAHC has formed a Capital Plan Development Task Force with broad membership of the MAHC Board of Directors, administration and medical staff, hospital foundations and auxiliaries, primary care, municipal representatives from the District of Muskoka, North and South Muskoka and East Parry Sound, representatives of MAHST, the North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network (NSM LHIN), and the greater Muskoka community. This task force is overseeing the planning work and will recommend a preferred model to the MAHC Board of Directors. Using a number of criteria, it is anticipated that the Board of Directors will consider a preferred model in the spring of 2018. Following the decision, additional work will be done to further develop the infrastructure to support the preferred model (what the bricks and mortar will look like). The goal is to have a submission ready for the NSM LHIN and MOHLTC by September 2018.

How much is this going to cost?

Regardless of the model selected, this project will cost hundreds of millions of dollars over time. The capital cost will be shared by the MOHLTC (approx. 90%) and the community (approx. 10%). The community is also responsible for other costs, such as new equipment and furnishings, which can cost as much as the local share.

Many LOBA members have already contributed to this process by completing the MAHC survey that was conducted through September and October. Stay updated on their work by visiting mahc.ca/planning-for-the-future. Watch for updates in the local media, on MAHC's website and social media, and notice of future community information opportunities anticipated in the New Year. 

Source: Allyson Snelling, Corporate Communications officer, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare

the Dwight Library is G R O W I N G



The Lake of Bays Township Public Library strives to be the 'community living room' for the residents of Baysville and Dwight. Both libraries are dedicated to support and protect intellectual freedom, to promote opportunities for self-fulfillment and to cultivate the recreational, educational and informational needs of the community. "Our libraries are hubs of activity where you will find people interacting and learning," says Cathy Fairbairn, Dwight Branch Librarian.

Since 2009, the number of programmes offered at the Dwight Branch has tripled and the number of community members benefitting from those programs has gone up over 250%. They have also seen a significant increase in the number of people bringing their own devices to the library to learn, work, connect with friends and create. As a result, they have outgrown their space!

"We are turning to our community to help us expand the Dwight Branch to meet the growing demand for our services. If you are able to donate and support this project, any amount will help!" says Fairbairn. Contact Cathy at cfairbairn@vianet.ca or 705-635-3319 to donate and drop by the library to see the plans. With your support, the library can grow to ensure they have the resources necessary to provide fulfilling opportunities to every person. For more information go to lakeofbayslibrary.ca. 

above: Artist's rendering of the Dwight Public Library expansion.



PROPANE
PREFERRED PRICING PROGRAM
 call or email Fraser Govan
 705-767-3692
fgovan@cottagecountry.net

CONGRATULATIONS

Bruce MacLellan

BETTY DAY AWARD WINNER

By Brian Simpson and Mark McLean



LBHF. He has provided leadership when producing insightful educational YouTube videos on Lake of Bays heritage topics and initiated the collection of documentation and recording of oral history/stories of the lake which are linked to the LBHF website. Bruce's scope for conservancy stretches well beyond our own backyard. For the past 16 years Bruce has held a board position with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) which is the country's largest land trust. The NCC has preserved nearly 3 million acres of important ecological land. As of this September, Bruce became chair of the board of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Bruce's passion and dedication has focused on creating a legacy for future generations by conserving, restoring and managing the natural areas of significant biological diversity...

Bruce MacLellan was presented with the prestigious Betty Day Award at LOBA's AGM, July 8. The award is named in honour of Betty Day, an active volunteer who passed away suddenly in her term as LOBA's president in 1992. The award is given to a LOBA member whose volunteer activities have significantly furthered the goals of the Association.

Bruce is best known for his involvement with the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation (LBHF). Under Bruce's leadership this conservation charity acquired three ecologically significant properties, greatly increased our knowledge of the cultural heritage of the lake community and established educational programs about natural heritage. He has been a consistent advocate for the importance of heritage preservation and its undeniable link with economic tourism.

Bruce's passion and dedication has focused on creating a legacy for future generations by conserving, restoring and managing the natural areas of significant biological diversity, and recognizing the built and cultural heritage of the Lake of Bays community. He has been a board member of LBHF for 14 years. Ten of those years were devoted to serving as president. In that period 50 per cent of the Lower Oxtongue River was acquired for permanent conservation. Bruce and his wife, Karen Girling and their daughters, Sara and Ally have promoted and advocated conservancy through effective public relations, fund raising, outreach educational programs and generous donations. Bruce has self-published two books, "Postcards From Lake of Bays" and "Back Again at Lake of Bays", which are not only significant as historical records, but all of the proceeds from book sales have gone to the

As climate change and land developers put pressure on our ecosystems and species habitat, we need the voices and influence of volunteers and advocates like Bruce to protect our natural heritage. He is a trusted advocate for conservation and a supporter of many causes, such as health, welfare and education that are vital to the wellbeing of our community. Bruce is a bridge builder and motivator in that he reaches out to individuals, governments, local organizations and national agencies to address issues and encourage co-operative solutions. Bruce MacLellan is most deserving of the Betty Day Award for exemplary volunteer service and we have been well served through his efforts. 

above: Bruce MacLellan, right, recipient of the 2017 Betty Day Award and LOBA President Ian Beverly at the AGM.



Celebrating the Anishinaabeg of LAKE OF BAYS

By Nancy Tapley

On a breezy day in Dorset, October 5, two beautiful heritage plaques—one in English and French, and one in Ojibwe—were unveiled to celebrate the history of the Anishinaabeg on the Lake of Bays. This was a collaborative venture with the Township of Lake of Bays Heritage Advisory Committee, the Ontario Heritage Trust, and the First Nations Chippewas of Rama. A long time in the planning and partnership, the event was a special moment. The Honourable James Bartleman (27th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario), Chief Rodney Noganosh, MPP Norm Miller and Mayor Bob Young addressed the assembled crowd of about 120 people. A prayer was led by Elder Myrna Watson from Rama, and the childrens' choir from the Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School sang O Canada, as well as a song in Ojibwe. What a delight to see and hear these shining young people raise their voices in their native language here or part of their native land. Harvey McCue, Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust, and CEO Beth Hanna also spoke at the ceremony. The Chippewa Travellers, an outstanding drum group, then lead the honour song on the main dock adjacent to the plaques. Appropriately, there was a loon in the narrows watching all that took place.

Refreshments were served in the Lake of Bays Maritime Museum, adjacent to the S.S. Bigwin. Along with sandwiches and desserts, a selection of Anishinaabeg foods were provided, including bannock, smoked trout and combread. A large photograph of Chief John Bigwin was on display, to remind us that his summer grounds were on the Island that carries his name, and his winter farm was just around the bay from the Trading Bay narrows.

This was a collaborative venture with the Township of Lake of Bays Heritage Advisory Committee, the Ontario Heritage Trust, and the First Nations Chippewas of Rama.



Chief Phyllis Williams of Curve Lake First Nations; Chief Philip Franks, Wahta Mohawks First Nations, MP Jamie Schmale were also in attendance, as were representatives from both Huntsville and Algonquin Highlands councils. As can be seen by the list of dignitaries, this was a 'big deal'. This is the second Heritage plaque the Township has worked in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust to erect—the first was to celebrate the Portage Flyer, at South Portage—and the Heritage committee is proud and honoured to have been part of this.

A note of special thanks must go to Bruce MacLellan, who first brought the idea for these plaques to the Township Heritage Committee, and to all the committee members and staff who have worked so hard to bring it all together. It is by remembering where we have come from that we find a way ahead.

For more information go to lakeofbays.on.ca/content/heritage-advisory-committee and heritagetrust.on.ca and ramafn.com. 

above left: The childrens' choir from the Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School. **above centre:** A portrait of Chief John Bigwin. **above:** From left, Beth Hanna, Chief Rodney Noganosh, Elder Myrna Watson, MPP Norm Miller, The Honourable James Bartleman and Harvey McCue. **left:** One of the two plaques commemorating the Anishinaabeg history at Lake of Bays.

Area Stewards



By Linda Robinson

The Lake of Bays Association is fortunate to have an active group of Area Stewards. These individuals act as a liaison between property owners/renters and the Association. Each Area Steward is assigned specific road(s) or a neighbourhood. They help to spread the word about issues that concern us around the lake community.

In June, we have an annual "Meet and Greet" for Area Stewards where they pick up materials. During the summer months, the Area Steward contacts people on their road list, who may not know about the Association and encourages them to join. As well, our Association has a Welcome Package program. These packages, containing useful information about living in the area, are delivered by the Area Steward to new property owners in the community. At the end of August we have an Area Steward "Wind-up". This is a chance for Area Stewards to get together, meet other Area Stewards on the lake, and share concerns and ideas for the following season.

During the late winter months, the Area Steward will try to contact those members who have not yet renewed their membership. Sometimes the member's contact information has changed. Sometimes the member has simply forgotten. We want to ensure that these members are included in our yearbook publication, as well as receiving our mailings and newsflash bulletins.

The success of our lake association depends on our Area Stewards

Currently we have 43 participants. The success of our lake association depends on our Area Stewards. They serve as a communication link between their neighbourhood and the Association. Suggestions, questions, issues and concerns may arise that would be helpful for the Association, in order to sustain a peaceful, healthy lake community. This is very helpful for everyone. Please contact your Area Steward as concerns arise. You can check the yearbook for a listing of the Area Steward in your area.

If you have some spare time, please consider volunteering. Our lake is large and our member concerns are varied. Together we can take steps to sustain the reasons we choose to be here on Lake of Bays. 

Wendy Gibson



After serving as LOBA's Executive Coordinator for 10 years (2006 - 2016), Wendy Gibson looks forward to continuing her involvement as a volunteer.

Wendy joined the Board of Directors in September and is a member of the Communications Committee, which is involved in the content and direction of LOBA's Yearbook, newsletter and online presence. Wendy and her husband Scott are both lifelong cottagers on Lake of Bays and enjoy all four seasons with immediate and extended family on Whiskey Bay.

A call to renew your membership and win great prizes!



Thank you to these local businesses whose generous donations support the Association. Please support them. Your membership fees allow us to continue our work to "promote, sustain and enhance a clean and healthy natural environment, a well serviced community and a safe and peaceful Lake of Bays".

Don't wait. Renew today! Go to loba.ca and click **RENEW**. You can renew and pay online or download a membership form to renew by mail. New members click **JOIN**. Questions about your membership? Please contact Beverley Govan at 705-767-3395 or email her at info@loba.ca.

Renew you LOBA membership for 2018 by December 15, and your name will be entered in a draw for these fabulous prizes...

Bigwin Island Golf Club
\$800 golf package for four

Rafters
Baysville - \$100 Gift Certificate

Season 2 Season Garden Market
Baysville - \$75 Gift Certificate

Clark's on Main
Dorset - \$50 Gift Certificate

Oxtongue Craft Cabin & Gallery
Dwight - \$50 Gift Certificate

Lake of Bays Brewing Company
Baysville - \$40 Gift Certificate

Dwight Garden Centre
\$25 Gift Certificate

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

On the waterfront or dock

The Lake of Bays Fire Department would like the residents of Lake of Bays (The Lake) to purchase Emergency Number signs for their waterfront or dock. Response times are delayed when firefighters are searching for a particular property with no waterfront identification. While an actual fire would be relatively obvious, most call outs are for medical emergencies and smoke alarms. If you live on a water access property or a property where a fire may not be visible from the water, a waterfront Emergency Number sign could significantly assist firefighters response to your emergency needs. Signs are about \$50 tax included and a sign with post is about \$70 tax included. Contact the Building and Bylaw department.

what's your number?

An update from the invasive species team

Invasive Species

IN LAKE OF BAYS

By Caroline Konarzewski



1.



2.



3.

1. Wild parsnip Glenmount Road.

2. Garlic mustard in the forest.

3. Phragmites, Howland and Centre St. Huntsville.

4. Japanese Knotweed.



4.

Invasive species are not wanted in Lake of Bays. They can take over by choking out indigenous flora and fauna and threatening to destroy our beautiful refuge here in Muskoka. Their presence could affect the value of our properties, our infrastructure, our economy, our society and our health.

Some of the invasive species that are of most concern include Giant Hogweed and Wild Parsnip. Because the sap of Giant Hogweed and Wild Parsnip can cause serious second and third degree burns to the skin when exposed to sunlight the Province of Ontario has designated them as noxious weeds which must be treated and eradicated.

Steve Peace, Superintendent of Public Works for the Township of Lake of Bays confirmed that two to three years ago some Giant Hogweed was found in the Tally Ho area. The Township arranged for the plants to be treated as prescribed by the Province of Ontario and the Giant Hogweed plants were eradicated.

This year Wild Parsnip and Garlic Mustard were identified on private properties by the LOBA Invasive Species Team (LIST). LIST was able to advise the owners of the best methods of removing these nasty invasive plants. In both cases the property owners acted responsibly and eradicated these invasives appropriately.

Also of major concern are Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed. Among other concerns, the dried, dead stalks of Phragmites do not decompose easily and form thick mats of dried tinder that can become a serious fire hazard.

Roots of Japanese Knotweed can travel more than nine metres (30 feet) and can easily break through foundations and even break up paved roads in their path.

LIST has identified Phragmites on Ronville Road and Japanese Knotweed on Old Hwy. 117. Because these were located on Lake of Bays Township property these growths were reported to the Township. Steve Peace confirmed that the Township is presently making arrangements for both of these stands to be treated appropriately. Monitoring these stands will be done annually and they will be sprayed again as needed in order to eradicate them. We appreciate that the Township is beginning to recognise the serious threat that invasives pose and that they are taking action.

Last year LIST was able to identify several stands of Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed along District of Muskoka Roads in Lake of Bays. LIST reported these stands to Jamie Delaney, Manager of Environmental Compliance for the District. Delaney has confirmed that the stands of Phragmites were sprayed with approved herbicides. The Japanese Knotweed stands have been added to the list of invasive species in the Township to be treated. This action from the District is much appreciated.

LOBA wants to ensure that these and other invasive plants in Lake of Bays are eradicated. LIST will continue to work at identifying and reporting sightings of invasive terrestrial species, educating our members about invasive species, and doing what we can to ensure the appropriate authorities take the necessary actions to eradicate them.

If you suspect that you might have an invasive species on your property please contact LIST at caromike@gmail.com for assistance in identifying and dealing with the problem.

Difference between native, non-native & invasive species

INDIGENOUS/NATIVE SPECIES have existed in a given area prior to European settlement. They are well adapted to the area and thrive with very little care.

ALIEN/NON-NATIVE SPECIES have been introduced by human action from another geographic region to an area outside its natural past or present distribution. They do well along with indigenous plants but may take more work in order for them to thrive well.

INVASIVE SPECIES are harmful non-native/alien species whose introduction or spread threaten our environment, our economy, our society, and our health. They can take over by choking out or killing indigenous and non-native plants and destroy the natural habitat of birds, animals and fish. Some can even cause structural damage to our cottage and home foundations.

If you are removing any invasive species from your property, place them in a strong, black plastic bag, leave the bag in the sun for a week and then dispose of them in the garbage. Do not put invasive species in yard waste and do not compost invasive species. 

INTRODUCING Kathy Ogryzlo



above: Kathy and Richard out for a walk.

The Lake of Bays Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Kathy Ogryzlo to the Board of Directors, as Treasurer, effective July 8, 2017. As a Chartered Professional Accountant with other not-for-profit board experience, she will be charged with overseeing the financial administration of the association, reviewing procedures and financial reporting.

Since the summer of 1955, Kathy has spent most summers at Lake of Bays and it has been a constant and a priority in her life. Having updated the cottage to allow year-round occupancy, and with husband Richard retiring this fall, Kathy and Richard plan to spend a great deal more time at the lake.

Having a little more flexibility, time and the luxury of current technology, Kathy decided it was right to answer the call for a Treasurer for LOBA. "Despite our home base being in Calgary, with the ability to e-mail and conduct meetings via conference calls, it does not matter as much these days where one is physically. As an accountant, it is easy to find a spot where you can contribute and I am very much looking forward to filling this role and working alongside a very accomplished and passionate group of people who are involved with LOBA," says Kathy.

We are delighted to have Kathy on board, and are looking forward to continuing work with her. 

LAKE OF BAYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL

photo contest

Open to all Lake of Bays Association members and families for submission in the following categories.

LIFE at the LAKE:
people, pets and dwellings

NATURE:
wild plants and animals

LANDSCAPE:
land, water, and sky

Photos must be previously unpublished and submitted—one per individual, per category—in digital format to Aben Graphics: info@abengraphics.com before

***DECEMBER 15, 2017.** *Subject line of email, Lake of Bays Photo Contest. Contestants agree to the use of their photos for the Lake of Bays Association yearbook, newsletter, website and social media sites. *Note new date*

Winter pantry UPDATE

The Winter Pantry, based out of St. Ambrose Anglican Church in Baysville, was created in 2016 by enthusiastic church and community volunteers who recognized that providing community food support during the long, cold winter was paramount. When the Health Hub in Dorset identified families who were not receiving food support, they expanded their service area to include both communities. Fundraising with the Antique Car and Boat Show (special thanks to Wayne Donaldson and Susan Pond), they have raised money over the past two summers and have established the Dorset and Baysville Liquor stores as food collection points where cottagers (and others) can drop off non-perishable goods.

Last year the Pantry served 19 families in Baysville and Dorset for a total of 54 people and this year they are set to serve more. A few single seniors use the Winter Pantry, however the majority of their clients are hard-working parents who just need a bit of help during the winter season. Most people are faced with reduced hours of work or layoffs during the winter when the huge hydro and propane bills arrive.



Starting at the beginning of November, the Winter Pantry is open every other Wednesday, 1:00 to 6:00pm on a drop in basis or they will arrange confidential food pickup up at other times.

They offer a cup of coffee with a warm piece of pie and a visit to the kitchen, while people wait their turn to visit the pantry and select their food. In addition to the non-perishable food that is donated, they provide fresh meat, bread, fruit, vegetables, cheese, eggs, yogurt, margarine, and milk, consistent with their mission to provide healthy, nutritious and full meals. Everyone can take whatever they need to refresh their cupboards and each family is provided with frozen meat to last them three or four days.

Last year the Winter Pantry was able to obtain and distribute Crock Pots to families and they have lots of cook books for inspiration. They plan to provide Christmas hampers again this year with all the fixings for a wonderful Christmas dinner. Stay tuned for news of Community Dinners which provide a great meal and the opportunity to visit with your neighbours. 



Ian Beverley
President, Lake of Bays Association

President's report

Volunteers, amended bylaws, the OMB outcome & Fairview and Langmaid's Island

While not the best weather-wise, volunteers and staff of LOBA were busy through the summer months. At our Annual Meeting, held on July 8 in Dwight, we confirmed an Amended and Restated By-Law for the Association, and changed the number of Directors to 18. We also heard a thought-provoking presentation from the District of Muskoka.

Between July 1 and Labour Day our water-testing volunteers, led by Deb Cumming, sampled our water five times for phosphorus and once for bacteria, at 20 locations. The LOBA Invasive Species Team (LIST) also had a busy summer, identifying invasive plant stands around the Township and working with property owners, and District and Town-

ship staff on eradication efforts. Our 43 Area Stewards distributed close to 80 Welcome Packages to new property owners on the lake. We participated at both the July 1, Rock the River event (which was a success despite the rain) and the Baysville Walkabout.

Fairview Island has been purchased by the Konrad Group, and we have been monitoring and commenting on their plans for development. Many of our members have expressed concern about the new owners' proposal to have the island rezoned to commercial zoning, to allow for a corporate retreat. Access to the island has also been raised as an important issue. We have relayed the concerns of our membership to the Town of Huntsville and at the time of writing the Town has yet to make a decision.

Langmaid's Island has also recently been bought. Representatives from both LOBA and the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation will have attended a Stakeholder Workshop on October 24, hosted by the new owners to discuss and provide input regarding the future of Langmaid's Island on Lake of Bays. We will

keep you informed through our Newsflashes

From September 12 to 14, the LOBA appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) regarding the decisions of the Lake of Bays Council and of the District of Muskoka to approve the reduction of minimum waterfront back lot size from ten to seven acres, in the Township of Lake of Bays Official Plan, was heard. Regrettably, the OMB Decision was not the one we were hoping to achieve. It is an extremely short decision particularly considering the extensive evidence that was called and the very thoughtful evidence of our five witnesses which clearly demonstrated that there was no need or basis for the change in back lot sizes and no planning evidence to support Council's decision. While our legal counsel advised that the OMB decision could be challenged and likely overturned, our Board has chosen not to do so because of the additional cost and time that would be involved. It is time to move on.

Best wishes to all our members for the upcoming holiday season. 



District of Muskoka

AT WORK FOR US



Many aspects of Lake of Bays living rely on programs or services provided by the District of Muskoka—from waste management to lake system health monitoring to community services and health hubs. To learn more about the role of the District and its programs and services, the Lake of Bays Association invited District of Muskoka staff to speak at our AGM in July.

Michael Duben, Chief Administrative Officer, described what the District does and how the District works closely with area municipalities (including the Township of Lake of Bays and Huntsville) to provide programs and services that make Muskoka one of the greatest places in the world to live, work or play. Molly Ross, Communications Officer, shared social, economic and demographic trends that impact every life in Muskoka—and challenged members to find ways we can work together to strengthen our communities. Graham Good who leads the District's Geographic Information System, demonstrated ways to explore Muskoka using interactive tools available to the public through the District's Muskoka Web Map. You can view their presentation at:

<http://loba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/District-of-Muskoka-Overview-Presentation-for-Community--July2017final.pdf>



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