

Happy Victoria Day Weekend May 2016

A sincere thank you to members that have renewed for 2016 and continue to support the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association (LLSA). If you enjoy this electronic newsletter please consider joining the association or renewing your membership now.

Join or renew now at www.leonardlake.net or mail a \$50. cheque to Bev Leabeter, 1128 Leonard Lake Road 2, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W8.

Membership matters - it allows the association to speak with authority on behalf of Leonard Lake



Go Jump in the Lake...and with gusto!

Picture proof - The first planned dip in Leonard Lake this year was April 30th in Outlook Bay (send in your pictures if you can ``up `` this performance). To quote the early birds ``MAN, that was COLD!``

So You Want a New Dock? A Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) permit may be required



Previously, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), explicitly advised in published materials that a person building any dock over shore lands (defined as lands covered or seasonally inundated by water of a lake or other water source) on posts, piles or stilts or floating docks, or docks cantilevered over water, did not have to apply for or obtain a work permit under the Ontario Public Lands Act. However, as of March 22, 2016, things changed!

As a result of a 2015 decision by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, an MNR work permit is now required to construct or replace a dock that occupies more than 15 square metres of shore lands, the area of which can be calculated based on the perimeter of the dock. This requirement includes expansions to, or replacements of, existing docks where the resulting area of such dock is more than 15 square meters (161 square feet). The MNR acknowledges that this approach is a change from how it dealt with the majority of new or replacement docks prior to March 22, 2016. At the present time, there is no MNR fee associated with applying for or receiving the required work permit.

What does this change mean for us?

In addition to compliance with the requirements of the District of Muskoka Lakes (DML) regarding the application and issue of a building permit for the expansion, replacement or construction of any dock on Leonard Lake, there is now a requirement for a work permit from the MNR, and that work permit may include limits on the month/time period during which such work can be performed. Even with a DML building permit in hand, no construction can begin until the MNR permit has been issued. Penalties for a breach of the Public Lands Act are significant (up to \$10,000) and may include a requirement that the offending structure be removed.

<http://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits#section-4>

Call 1(800) 667-1940 with questions or email to: mnr.approval@ontario.ca

Visit FOCA at www.foca.on.ca and MLA May Newsbites at www.mla.on.ca for developments



Leonard Lake Contributes to “Clean Up Muskoka” April 23rd

A hearty thank you to the hard-working trio consisting of Gordon Roberts, Bruce McNeely and Kent Taylor!

The "Clean-up Crew" managed to collect a truck load of debris from the ditches on Hwy 118 near the Leonard Lake Boat Launch.



Please consider “pitching in” when you notice rubbish on the roads surrounding our beautiful lake.

April 15th, District of Muskoka council unanimously passed BY-LAW NO. 2016-032 allowing All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Off-road Recreational Vehicles (ORVs), and Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) to travel on all township roads. More details next EBlast.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, May 21st Bracebridge Saturday Farmer’s Market commences. Gravenhurst Wednesday Market opens May 18th, the Port Carling Thursday Market, June 23rd and the Bala Monday Market, June 20th in Jasper Park.

Saturday, May 21st from 9 am to 1 pm, The Muskoka Lakes Firefighters will host a community

Fire Smart Awareness day at the Milford Bay Community Centre. Come see the newest tools and information and meet reps from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Canadian Red Cross, Firebuzz Firefighting Equipment, Centurion Fire Control, and M&L Supply. Kids can meet Sparky the Fire Dog and have a tour of the fire truck.

Sunday, May 22nd 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. come out for pancakes and sausages to the Milford Bay Community Centre to support your local volunteer Milford Bay Volunteer Firefighters annual event.

July 9th you are invited to the LLSA AGM at the Milford Bay Community Centre. Doors open for registration at 9:00 a.m.

HELP! Do you have basic skills in Adobe Illustrator Artwork (AI) or Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) software? If so, we could use your assistance right now for a small project.

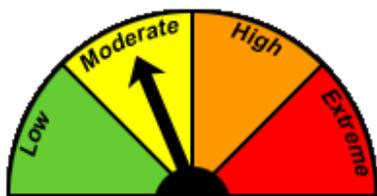


What's an Algal Mat?

A concerned property owner contacted LLSA just after the ice went out to report a “sludge” mass along the shoreline. Leonard Lake’s “Cottage Scene Investigation” Team (our very own CS!!) sent the pictures provided off to The Dorset Environmental Science Centre and experts identified the sludge as a dead/decaying algal mat.

Algal mats are a microbial mat formed on the water surface or on the surface of rocks. The white/grey colour suggests fungi, but it's hard to tell just from the pictures. The mats, likely dead for some time, may have existed and collected under the ice, or were stuck on macrophytes (i.e. aquatic plant) and rocks around the shoreline.

The good news is that this sludge appears to be “Mother Nature” doing her thing. The property owner provided a sample of the “sludge” which will be sent off by LLSA to a lab for analysis to ensure that the mat content is not harmful. *p.s...the cost of the testing can only be covered because of your financial support through membership!*



FIRE DANGER RATING IS MODERATE RIGHT NOW IN MUSKOKA. CHECK REGULARLY FOR SIGNS POSTED ON HW 118 OR CALL TOLL-FREE 1-877-846-1577

Gravenhurst Fire Chief Larry Brassard states in the introduction to the Fire Department’s “Cottage Express” newsletter, that “fire prevention begins with the right attitude...not being paranoid about it, just mindful...being thoughtful and intentional about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms...being prepared for a fire (or other emergency) and knowing what to do in the event a fire strikes.” Some safety tips in the newsletter include:

Recognize the risks of wildland or wildfires. Be extra conscious with every cigarette butt and campfire; with how you landscape your property and dispose of debris
 Empty eaves troughs of dead leaves and pine needles as part of your spring clean up and keep dead vegetation away from your home, cottage and propane tanks
 Obey the fire-rating signs and do not burn during the day.

Do not use fireworks in a forested area due to the risk of grass/brush/forest fires
 Plan how you would react if a bush fire broke out on your property or close by
 Make preparations so that your family could be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours if needed. Go to www.getprepared.ca for information

It’s mandatory to have a CO2 detector installed in your home or cottage if you have any type of fuel fired appliance

Keep driveway access to your home/cottage clear to ensure that a fire truck or ambulance can access your property directly and quickly. Trim the overgrown brush and tree limbs. Minutes count in an emergency.

Make sure your blue numbered sign at the end of your driveway (which is part of MAS -Muskoka Addressing System) can be seen easily at night and in poor weather. It could mean someone’s life in the event of a 911 call.

The newsletter can be read in full at www.gravenhurst.ca/en/fire/fire.asp and go to FireSmart Canada at firesmartcanada.com for additional information.

p.s. The Gravenhurst Fire Department is now hiring part-time and volunteer firefighters.

Do you recognize this floating dock?

A 4 x 12 section was found near the Rohacek cottage and is now tied to their dock at 1138 Leonard Lk Rd #2.



Looking out for a family member or friend to rent on Leonard Lake this summer?

Become a Community Gardener - all welcome!

Members of the Milford Bay Community Club are offering on-site raised gardens of various height, lengths and

By water, the dock is the first south of the two story, two slip boathouse on the west side of the lake.

Thank's to the Rohaceks for the capture!



The Marrant family cottage at 1224 Leonard lake Road 2 is available at \$1,299 (high season rate in July & August). Call Leigh Marrant for information at 416-440-8474 or 647-391-8474 (c)



Loons fulfill the same role for a lake that the canary fulfilled in the mines – acting as an indicator of environmental conditions. The Common Loon species is facing significant threats as the number of chicks decrease each year. <http://birdscanada.org>

depths. No experience necessary...just a desire to grow your own veggies, herbs and fruit. A small \$10 donation will reserve a garden and you can share one with a neighbour or family. Call Rita Lynch at 705-764-3652.



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