

Where Has The Summer Gone? Happy Labour Day 2016 Weekend

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



LLSA Scavenger Hunt 2016



The LLSA Scavenger Hunt held on the Saturday of the August long weekend turned out to be a fun on-the-water event! Families from all over Leonard Lake got into their water crafts with maps and passports to make their way around the lake, visiting any or all of the five docks designated as scavenger sites. (Even the crew from Gilligan`s Island was there - send a picture!) Each site had a quiz or something fun to do and participants collected a stamp and move to the next dock.

The event ended at dock six with hot dogs and drinks hosted by the Scarrow family. It was a perfect day, and provided an opportunity for cottagers to visit areas of the lake at dockside and to meet other Leonard Lake boaters and families.

Sincere thanks to the Scarrow family for organizing the event and hosting the get together, to the five `dock host` families and to all of the participants-on-the-water!



LLSA AGM 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

The July 9th Annual General Meeting was held in the midst of a power outage but the turnout was excellent and the lights at the Milford Bay Community Centre were on!

President Joanne Rusnell acknowledged the retirement of Betty Isbister from the LLLSA board with sincere gratitude for her years of commitment and comradery. Betty most recently attended the 2016 Climate Change Conference and reported that although there were some promising aspects, there are serious threats to Muskoka that need to be addressed now.

Gord Roberts (Environment) reported that a Leonard Lake water plant inventory has been done and no invasive species were detected at this point. Testing for spiny water flea will be conducted in August of this year. Water quality testing continue with with volunteers Betty Isbister and Ester Giesbrecht. Jean Riffel

is looking into fish stocking once again and Christine Hatton continues to build a portfolio of Leonard Lake wildflowers. Gord also mentioned the spring road clean up with volunteers Kent Taylor, Bruce McNeely and himself.

Bruce McNeely (Development with Nancy Braun) indicated that approval for dock construction is now required from MNR in addition to a permit from the township and there is an MNR backlog at this point. ATVs will be allowed on public roads of Muskoka for a one year trial. The North Shore property previously owned by the Morawetz family has been sold and the new owner wishes to sever the property into development lots in accordance with local bylaws and parameters.

Marilyne Doyle (Communication) spoke about the membership goal of 90 each year and that we are currently at 73 members. There are several properties on the lake either sold or soon to be sold and there is an opportunity to assist new owners to better understand how to keep our lake healthy while enjoying the beauty. Thanks to Bev Leabeter for managing memberships and thanks to the volunteers today – Bev and Rob Leabeter, Phyllis Morgan, Kathy Gray, Donna McNeely, Betty Isbister and Jennifer Roberts. Marilyne reminded the audience that the EBLASTS can be used for personal buy and sell items and that glass membership decals were being researched. Finally, the association is fortunate to have volunteers come forward for an event up to leading an area of responsibility so please consider volunteering!

A financial overview was provided by Mark Scarrow (Treasurer). LLSA has \$22k in assets and \$20,603 in liabilities with a surplus of \$794. Mark also provided a summary of shoal marking research and stated that insurance could be obtained for minor cost but that there are maintenance issues, administrative requirements and high costs for the purchase of equipment – e.g. regulation buoys that deem the initiative prohibitive for LLSA.

The AGM guest speaker was Doug Holland, Fire Prevention Officer for the Township of Muskoka Lakes and speaking on behalf of FireSmart Canada. Doug reported that forest fires exposure is a real threat in Muskoka and that 60% of fires are caused by lightning and the other 40% humans. 90% of all human caused wildfires occur within 3 km of urban areas. Spot fires created by blowing embers can travel airborne up to a few kilometers. Installing fire sprinklers will create a humidity dome around buildings that can save a building in the event of an area fire. Doug also advised that many properties in lake country have limited access to the cottage or house due to narrow lanes lined

with dense tree and bush cover. These conditions often prevent or delay fires trucks from getting close enough to the property to fight the fire effectively. FireSmart Community offers access to a potential \$500 grant to assist in the clean-up for potential fire exposure. See firesmartcanada.ca

The District of Muskoka Lakes has Proposed Significant Changes to the Lake System Health Program

Why Should You Care?

Leonard Lake, under the current Recreation Water Quality Model (and Lake System Health Program) is classified as "over threshold for phosphorus" and stringent rules apply regarding new development. Requests for change require applications for an exception, possible minimum lot size restrictions based on phosphorus levels and possibly a water quality impact study. These steps have helped keep Leonard Lake healthy while allowing new development within set parameters.

Under the proposed model, Leonard Lake will lose special status regarding development. Only seven lakes in the District of Muskoka Lakes would have special status as "transitional" lakes. We are all proud of our lake and want to keep it healthy and pristine for ourselves and for future generations. We need to ensure that the proposed Lake System Health Policy and the subsequent rules and by-laws at the Township level aid us in this goal.

What Has Happened So Far?

In April 2016, Hutchison Environmental Sciences Ltd. (HESL) presented a technical report to District Council recommending major changes to the District's Lake System Health Program. Council accepted the recommendations and directed staff to proceed with the process required to amend the Official Plan. Subsequently, six open houses were held by the District of Muskoka to share information on the amendment and the findings of the HESL report. Leonard Lake was represented at three of the sessions with a differing mix of both LLSA board members and several Leonard Lake residents. Although the presentations contained general information about the changes to the Recreation Water Quality Model, it was felt that the timelines set by the District are short and additional explanation is needed, not only about the science driving the recommendations but how the resulting policy will be implemented and resourced.

What's Next?

There are a number of unanswered questions and concerns that we would like to see addressed at both the District and Township level to better understand the potential impact of the changes on Leonard Lake. In the near future, Board members will meet with District staff and our Councillors with a list of specific questions. A subsequent meeting will be held with the Township Planning Department to ask what will happen

over the next number of months with current by-laws and requirements until a new policy is in place.

The District of Muskoka will prepare a draft of the new Lake Health System Program soon and there is a statutory requirement that a public meeting be held so that formal feedback can be received. LLSA will attend the public meeting and we hope that a number of Leonard Lake residents will also participate. As additional information is known, it will be shared with you.

In the interim, to get involved or speak to an LLSA board member about the proposed changes, please send an email to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com For additional information regarding the proposed District Water Quality Model and to access the complete Hutchinson "Revised Water Quality Model and Lake System Health Program" Report refer to <http://www.muskoka.on.ca/en/work-and-invest/Water-Quality-Model-and-Policy-Review.aspx>

TURTLES - THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING DINOSAUR



1. What's a carapace? (and no, it's not an appetizer)
 2. Why do snapping turtles "snap" at people on land but not when in the water?
 3. Why did the turtle cross the road?
 4. Why are turtles important to humans?
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Leonard Lake Food Drive 2016

starts right after the Labour Day weekend! If you wish to donate food to a worthy cause, please place your unopened dry and canned goods at the end of your dock before Monday evening.

Commencing Tuesday, Gord and Jennifer Roberts will traverse the lake (probably several times) picking up dry goods from Leonard Lake docks. and all donations will be delivered to a Food Bank.

Last fall, Leonard Lake residents donated 168 lbs of food to the Leonard Lake Food Drive.

Thank you Leonard Lake (and sincere thanks to Gord and Jennifer!).

Bathing and Hair Washing in Leonard Lake...Why Not?

Shampoos and commercial cleansers contain chemicals or agents that damage the eco-system of the lake (even biodegradable products). If you know about blue-green algal blooms, you will want to avoid placing any chemicals in the water that help these lake killers to grow (they are poisonous as well for humans and animals). The rule of thumb is to move back 100 to 200 feet from a body of water if you intend to use soaps or cleaners (including biodegradable products) to wash people, dogs, boats, etc. Renters and guests may not be aware of the damage done in using Leonard Lake as a giant bathtub so we can all do our part by sharing this knowledge.

Love Your Lake Colouring Contest

LLSA has received "Love Your Lake"



artwork from many families around the lake. Be sure to submit your drawing, illustrating what you love about the lake or your cottage. Deadline for entry has been extended to 10:00 p.m. September 15th. Mail entry to Gord Roberts 1-1033 Alice Avenue, RR1, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1W8 or send to leonardlakemuskoka@gmail.com

“Toto...I have a feeling we’re not in Kansas anymore...”



You`re right, Dorothy!

This picture is part of Leonard Lake history. In the summer of 1963 or 64 or 65 (does anyone know the correct year?) a waterspout (tornado that picks up water) moved across Leonard Lake and flipped the cottage upside down on Betty Isbister’s Island in Heron Bay. No one was in the cottage at the time.

Brenda Tryon remembers watching the storm crash around the lake and sent in this memory picture taken by her uncle Doug Stinson. Thank you Brenda!

Dr. Ursula Franklin, a long time Leonard Lake resident passed away earlier this year and most recently LLSA received a link to an article in the Globe and Mail “I remember” written by Heather Jamieson. For those interested in reading the article, please cut and paste the link into your browser.

Find Dr. Franklin in Wikipedia highlighting aspects of her work regarding women's rights.

<http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20160831.OBIREMEMBER/BDAStory/BDADeaths>

.Turtle Quiz The carapace is the top shell of the turtle.

1. Snapping turtles are the only turtles without a plastron (under-shell) that is big enough to hide in - so the only way to protect themselves on land is to “snap”. They do not like the way people smell or taste and will swim away before thinking about snapping.
 2. Why, to get to the annual nesting site of course! Most of the turtles on the road are females, so when a turtle is hit and killed, we lose every generation that female would have spawned. The hatch and survival rates are low too, due to factors such as predators and weather. One female, reaches sexual maturity between 15 and 20 years of age and given 80 years of egg-laying, could potentially have only one successful recruit. 7 out of 8 turtle species in Ontario are threatened.
 3. Turtles and turtle habitats are extremely important in keeping humans healthy: Turtles eat dead matter at the bottom of lakes and wetlands and keep our water clean; wetlands are important habitats that regulate water levels and filter pollutants and are used by over 70% of Ontario's species from moose to fish. If you would like to learn more about all of the Ontario turtle species, the information above was extracted from an Ontario Site called “Turtle Guardians” at <http://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/id-turtles/snapping-turtle/>
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