

The Bass Laker



Prepared by Jeff MacDonald

Message From The President

Rain, rain, go away. It's the first Saturday in June and I am sitting inside writing this newsletter. I must admit that one of my favourite sounds at the cottage is to listen to the rain fall. However, after almost a month of rain in May, I am ready for the sun.

I am also ready for the 2011 cottage season. Your Executive has been working hard and we have some exciting activities planned for the summer. Our annual meeting has been changed from the Labour Day Weekend to the Canada Day weekend. For those of you who are not aware, the meeting is held at the Foot's Bay Community Centre and it will be on July 2nd at 10am. It was felt that this would be a better date because it is in the earlier part of the cottage season when more members are likely to attend. It would also be an opportunity to discuss the activities that will be taking place within the following months. In addition, we will be making some revisions to our constitution and formalizing our Executive. Therefore, your attendance is needed.

We will also be continuing with some events that have proven to be popular with the lake. We will be hosting our third annual Bass Lake Poker Run on August 13th. Just a reminder, this is a non-motorized poker run and creativity is encouraged for your vessel. Enid Wray will be co-ordinating the Poker Run and there will be more information to follow. We will also be hosting our third annual Parade of Lights on Saturday, September 3rd. Unfortunately, the rain turned away many boaters last year. However, the rain made the Executive realize that we need a "rain date". Therefore, if September 3rd turns out to be a rain day, we will re-schedule the Parade of Lights for September 4th (rain or shine). In addition, don't forget to decorate your dock or shoreline. The Parade of Lights is a great way to end the summer.

Finally, I encourage you to visit our website regularly. Our Executive makes sure that the website is continuously updated and it's the best way for you to stay informed.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you out on the lake.

Jeff MacDonald

Upcoming Events



Annual Meeting
July 2nd



Bass Lake Garage Sale
July 30th



Pancake Breakfast
August 7th



Bass Lake Poker Run
August 13th

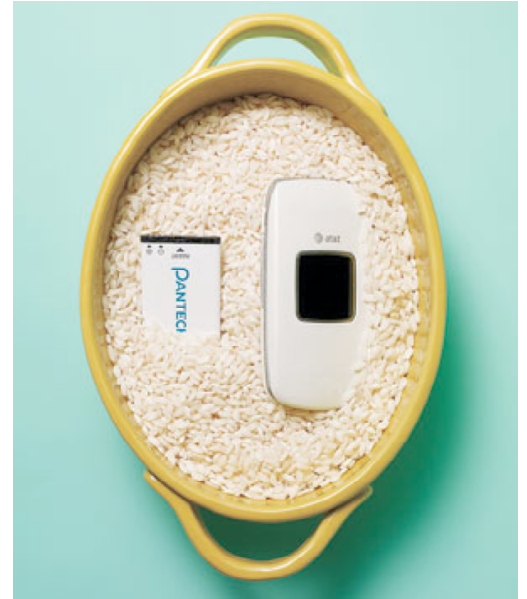


Parade of Lights
September 3rd

CPR – Cell Phone Resuscitation

So your cell phone fell into the lake? Or have you just thrown your cell phone in the lake after speaking with your office? Try your own CPR (that's "cell-phone resuscitation"). Grab your phone quickly and don't switch the phone on, as this can cause it to short circuit. Dry any visible droplets, pop out the battery, and stick both the phone and battery in a bowl of uncooked rice over-night. The rice will soak up most of the remaining moisture. Rotate the phone to a different position every hour until you go to sleep. This will allow any water left inside to run down and hopefully find an opening to escape. After you have waited at least 24 hours, check to see that everything on and in your cell phone is clean and looks dry. Re-attach the battery to the phone. Try turning it on.

We know someone who did this with her cell phone after it fell into the bathtub. She followed these steps and her cell phone worked the next day. If anything, it makes for a great dinner story when you are eating rice



BBQ Maintenance Tips

A BBQ can be a large part of your outdoor activities for many years. Proper maintenance and care is needed to ensure that your barbeque will work for many years to come. Here are some tips that will ensure your BBQ will work for many years to come.

Gathering The Necessary Items

You will need some common household items on hand when it comes time to clean your grill: brass wire grill brush, steel wool pads, mild dish soap, sponge or dishcloth, spray cooking oil, dry banking soda, and aluminum foil.

Brushing Your Grill Off

The first thing that should always be done to your grill is routine brushing. This will prevent any type of buildup. If left too long, it can become increasingly difficult to remove.

Spray Cooking Oil

When your grill is completely cooled off, you will want to spray it down with a light layer of cooking oil. This will prevent your grill from rusting. It is important to note that your grill needs to be completely cold as a hot surface may cause the oil to heat up and ignite.

Baking Soda & Aluminum Foil On Your Grill

Baking soda is a very nice cleaning polishing agent. Lightly scrubbing your grill will give it that extra shine, similar to the day that you brought it home from the store. Aluminum foil can also be used to keep your

grill looking nice. Gently rub the aluminum foil on your grill and you will notice that it removes grim and buildup.

Clean Your Racks

This is where the food touches when it is cooking. You will have to use the wire brush to remove as much buildup as possible. Once you remove as much as possible, start washing the racks with dish soap. If racks are really dirty, you may also want to use the steel wool pads. Be sure to completely rinse off all soap and residue before cooking again.



Take Care of Our Lake

The Muskoka Lakes Association website provides some suggestions on how we, as cottage owners, can keep our lake clean and clear.

NUTRIENT OVERLOADING

The nutrients that we add to the lakes- especially phosphorous- are a major water quality problem. These extra nutrients cause excessive plant growth and the algae build-up you see on your boat's hull and along shorelines. If we don't cut down on nutrient loading, we'll have cloudy water, unpleasant tastes and odours, and a lot fewer fish.

DO

- Buy phosphate-free soaps, shampoos, cleansers and detergents (especially dishwasher detergent)
- Maintain a natural shoreline with trees and bushes that absorb nutrients before they reach the water
- Keep organic matter such as raked leaves and garden clippings away from the water. Establish a composting area away from streams, rivers and lakes to help reduce nutrient rich runoff.

DON'T

- Bathe or shampoo in the lake
- Use fertilizers anywhere near the water
- Alter the natural shoreline by adding sand or other fill

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Private septic systems can be major contributors of disease-causing microbiological contamination. Keep your system in shape.

DO

- Check for trouble signs: water pooling, damp areas and odours.
- Pump out and inspect the tank every 2-3 years. Septic systems that were installed 20 or more years ago may not meet today's standards.
- Keep the tile field free of trees and shrubs
- Build any new septic systems as far from the water as possible.

DON'T

- Let anyone drive or park on your tile field.

- Allow any wastewater to bypass your septic system



BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS

Biodegradable means that common bacteria in septic systems, soil and water will break down a substance to its original elements over a period of time. So, buying biodegradable soaps, shampoos, detergents and other products is a step in the right direction. However, the biodegradable label doesn't mean that the substance is completely non-polluting and it's no guarantee that the elements left after the break-down are totally harmless to the environment.

DO

- Buy biodegradable products
- Make sure all wastewater goes through your septic system

DON'T

- Use the biodegradable label as a license to wash in the lake, under any circumstances.

TOXIC MATERIALS

The nature of the Muskoka landscape means that almost any improperly handled toxic materials will eventually end up in the water. Common sense and caution are the best defense.

DO

- Use environmentally safe cleansers or natural alternatives.
- Call your Municipality and ask about the disposal of paint thinners, oils, wood preservatives, and poisons
- check all gas and oil storage tanks regularly for leaks and always use a funnel near water.
- Keep it natural - avoid using pesticides and herbicides

DON'T

- Bury household hazardous materials or pour them down the drain.

Thank You

Ask not what Bass Lake can do for you, but what you can do for Bass Lake. I will admit that I am paraphrasing from JFK. However, there are many people that contribute to Bass Lake and receive no recognition.

Dave Sanders has been connecting the water markers for many years. Dave puts them in and takes them out each year. He also makes sure that

they stay in their right spots all summer. These markers identify the shallow points on our lake. Thank you Dave for all of your hard work. It is much appreciated.

A few years ago, the Bass Lake Association approved a contribution of \$1,000 towards the renovation of a dock at the boat launch. This winter, Bud Wice, Jeff Wice, and Garry Beaudin constructed this dock. In addition, Ben Roberts helped clear the snow. Thanks to these gentlemen, we now have a safe and sturdy dock. Thank you Bud, Jeff, Garry, and Ben.



There are many people that contribute to our lake to make sure that Bass Lake remains a safe and wonderful piece of paradise. I would encourage you to say thank you to these gentlemen if you should see them on the lake and understand that there are many others.

www.basslakeweb.com

Check out the Bass Lake Association website regularly. It is the best way that you can stay informed.

check to see that your neighbour's information is correct too.

The Bass Lake Code

This is a listing of generally accepted cottage practices that are to remind us and our guests of our responsibilities to the environmental health of our lake, to promoting a mutual respect amongst our fellow cottagers and ensuring the water safety is a priority of all.

2011 Events

This section will be continuously updated to make you aware of any upcoming events. Dates, times, locations, and any other pertinent information will be available. As you will see, the Pancake Breakfast is our next event.

Bass Lake Directory

Please make sure that you visit this section of the website to ensure that we have the correct information. If any changes are required, simply click the email button to submit the revisions. Also, please



Bass Book

This section has been developed by the cottagers on the lake and not the Bass Lake Association to help you locate a trade or service that you may need at the cottage. If you know someone that you would recommend to your neighbour, please complete the form on the website and your endorsement may help someone one day..

For Sale

What bargains can be found at Bass Lake? This section is dedicated to post items for sale, wanted items, or lost items. Please note that you must be a member of the Bass Lake Association to post any items.

I am open to any other ideas that you may have for our website. Please do not hesitate to submit your ideas to any of the Executive Members.