

1. Meeting Called to Order.

The meeting was convened by Jeff MacDonald, at 10:00am, with the introduction of the Head Table:

Jeff MacDonald, President
Chris Bodanis, Executive Member
Enid Wray, Secretary
Joanne Goodwin, Treasurer

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes 2014

The minutes of last year's AGM were posted on the website last summer. They have also been circulated via the Bass Lake Updates. A number of circulating copies were made available for today's meeting.

We have received no communications regarding any inaccuracies.

The motion was made to approve the minutes.

Moved: Dave Cooper
Seconded: Bruce Chisholm

Approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Joanne Goodwin presented the Treasurer's Report. (N.B. Copies of the Treasurer's Reports are available for viewing on the Bass Lake Association website <www.basslakeweb.com>. Follow the prompts under the "Downloads" tab on the website).

For the current fiscal year the summary is as follows:

Income	\$4 655.00
Expenses	\$4 688.88
Balance	\$10 553.37 (includes \$8 810.71 in savings)

The four largest expenses, on an ongoing basis, are our FOCA membership, insurance, dealing with the beavers and the water testing. Generally, expenses remain pretty constant year over year.

4. Membership

Last year we started with 46 members (there are approx. 136 cottages on the lake). Most similar associations consider 50% to be a pretty good membership rate. To cover expenses we need 60 members.

Last year, after a real push to increase membership numbers, we ended the year with 88 members... an increase of 91%. This represents 67% of the total number of cottagers on the lake. That is great relative to most!

Little expenses increase very year... they keep creeping up (things like bank fees, etc.). The time has come to increase the membership dues. The dues have been \$50 since forever. It appears to be time to catch up. It is also time to continue the momentum and increase the membership numbers ever higher.

The water quality is the biggest reason we do this, but then when we add in all of the other things it's pretty good value for money. Doing the math, we're at \$50. If we fall back to previous membership levels, we would have serious holes to fill in the budget. We would also risk having to dip into savings and contingency funds, which are there in case we need them at any time in the future.

Jeff MacDonald proposed \$75. Many other lakes are at \$100. Looking for other suggestions?

Additional discussion included:

- Really need to stay at \$50 for this year as it has already been advertised as that... no reason people can't opt to contribute more!
- What about discount for people who pay two years in a row at once?
- Open to anything.
- e-mail transfers... we started doing that last year so we're set up for that now... question was asked about a universal password for Joanne... will look into that
- what gets measured gets done... M in the newsletter schedules for distribution on the August long weekend
- suggestion to list addresses which have paid up... no clear consensus on this, people are hesitant... Peter Long noted privacy concerns - the same reason we no longer publish a cottagers' directory...
- agree that last year's method with a little coloured slip inserted into newsletters of cottages that haven't paid up is a good choice
- Consider estate donations, or if you're leaving the lake then consider a financial donation to the association

General agreement was reached for the following motion:

2015 Association dues to remain \$50, as long as paid by the end of the AGM (early bird). Dues will increase to \$75 for next year.

Moved: Jeff MacDonald
Seconded: Amanda Bramall

Approved.

5. Water Testing and Water Quality

Jeff MacDonald turned the meeting over to Chris Bodanis to address the data from last summer.

Once again, Bass Lake had a very good year last year. In general the lake is in great shape. Beacon Environmental assigns each lake either a red, yellow or green light status. Bass Lake is green.

We are testing four (4) times this year, for phosphorous, e-coli and total coliform. Each test is site specific. Six sites in total. Each representing a unique aspect.

- **Deep water** - tested off the crown land where water is approx. 35 feet deep. Testing for clarity which has consistently been 2.5 - 3 m. This is very good for a lake like ours which is tannin rich. Being tannin rich explains why the lake is darker than some other lakes. This is not a bad thing, it's just organic matter leaching from leaf litter.
- **Phosphorous** - is a nutrient which can feed the growth of organic materials algal blooms, etc. Phosphorous levels have been relatively stable over the years. Last year the levels dropped slightly, which is a positive thing.
- **e-coli** - a naturally occurring bacteria, it's important that it not be too high, since it can be poisonous. We had a minor outbreak a few years ago (warm summer, no rain, high nutrient level). Now we have the lowest e-coli levels we've seen since we've been monitoring (last summer not particularly hot). Many factors are involved in reading levels, so we can't say definitively, but it could be that improved septic systems at cottages around the lake could be a contributing factor.

There is one concern. Some samples we look at ourselves (e-coli), while some go direct to the Muskoka Lakes Association for analysis. Our incubator is on its last legs. We have asked MLA to replace the unit but our incubator will not likely last much longer. We're at the stage where we're not entirely confident of it's accuracy. This is a major concern because we want to have good - accurate - results. Chris Turney told about the unit actually physically falling apart - but they managed to put it back together again! It's operational for now, but...

The expectation is that it will cost somewhere in the order to \$150 - give or take - to replace the incubator. This led to the following motion:

Motion to approve up to \$500 for the purchase of a new incubator.

Moved: Amanda Bramall
Seconded: Nancy Currell

Approved.

Other general discussion which followed included:

- Perhaps we should be looking to change the constitution next year to approve up to \$500 per year discretionary spending by the Exec.
- Water level concerns... lower water level?? actually higher than normal at present... come back to this at general discussion. was lower than usual before the culvert...
- Golf Course testing results? We have benign results off that site. There appears to be no leaching from the Golf Course (stream site by Garner's and Mitchell's)
- Tim Holland mentioned that additional testing of Bass Lake was conducted by the region last summer. Tim Holland will investigate and report his findings back to the executive.

Lastly, Jeff MacDonald took a moment to acknowledge Chris Bodanis, Chris Turney and Bev Turney. The water testing is a big commitment and undertaking. Anyone else who is interested in learning how to do the water testing is welcome to contact them and get on board.

6. New Cottagers

Jeff MacDonald invited anyone new to the lake to please stand and introduce themselves.

No new cottagers were in attendance. Cottagers on either side of these new cottagers are asked to reach out and welcome them to the lake and invite them to join the Association.

1120 Bass Lake Road Bowden cottage sold to Yu

1031 Hallett's Road Simpson cottage sold to...

1000-11 Kendon Road Fowler cottage sold to...
1025 Kendon Road Beaudoin cottage, sold to Karantjas (closing Wed July 8th)

7. Summer Events

Sat July 18th, evening

Bass Lake Lights Out

Everybody is encouraged to turn their lights out and enjoy our clear night sky. If everyone can participate, it will make for a great night to enjoy the stars! Find information on the website and BLA notice boards. Refer also to the e-mail flyer.

Fri July 31st, evening

Drinks and Music

Join your fellow cottagers for an evening of entertainment and relaxation, the night before the big yard sale. Meet a few new people while you're there. At the Bass Lake Roadhouse Time TBA.

Sat Aug 1st, 8am to noon

Yard Sale in support of Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Fund

Tables to be had for \$25 each
None of these funds go to research or treatment
All proceeds go to helping women get through daily life, by providing funds for items not covered elsewhere through various insurance plans (rent, housekeeping, household bills, wigs, counselling, etc.)
Please also be reminded of the "Pink Box" - on the Bass Lake Road - for both returns
Contact Mary Ann Beaudin at 375-5109 or maga@vianet.ca

Mary Ann spoke to the success that has been had with the various events in support of Kelly Shires. The combination of summer events (including Bass Lake events) has raised over \$30 000 since 2009. Details may be found by following this link: <http://bit.ly/1CntG0s>.

Sat Aug 8th @ 10:00am

Poker Run (non-motorised vessels only)
Starting point: The Turney Cottage (Kendon Bay)
Register with Enid Wray @ 1157 Kendon Road,
705-375-4614 or via the link on website
\$20 per entry

Sat Sept 5th @ 9pm

Parade of Lights
All boats are welcome. Boats should meet up in
the middle of the lake at the appointed time
All non-boating participants are invited to deck out
their decks and docks
Rain date to be Sun Sept 6th, rain or shine

*Suggestion that we do the loop twice. Apologies
to folks at the top end of Ben's Bay... not want to
get too far into it... if not familiar and you get off
then you're on the rocks or something...*

Ongoing...

New Last Summer

Bass Lake Photo Contest

Cottagers are invited to submit their summer
photos to the website.
Send by e-mail to Jeff MacDonald for uploading.
As we near the end of the summer all interested
are invited to submit their best summer photos for
consideration in the BLA Photo Contest. The
Winner will be chosen by votes submitted.

Last year's Inaugural winner was "Flying 'Dragan"
by Adrian Tilochand.

8. General Items of Discussion and New Business

- **Culvert:** We were aware of the problem in advance. The culvert was scheduled to be replaced. Bids were being tendered when it failed. It gave way while someone driving over it. Tender process was thrown out the window and replacing it became priority #1. They did a great job on a massive project in a very short period of time. This was a big event for the lake. Check out the documentation via photo on the BLA website. If anyone has any concerns about the culvert, let us know. The District been very great about addressing concerns.
- **Bears:** Lots of them about. All over on all roads. Mention was made of the article Jeff sent out re bears last year. Perhaps it should be sent out again in either an e-

mail update or with the newsletter in August.

It was pointed out that 50% of all bear attacks involve unleashed dogs. When they encounter a bear, the dogs run back to what they think is safe - their owner - and the bear follows.

- **Jet skis:** Everyone was reminded that if you feel the need to do some hotdogging in your boats, please take it over off the crown land. Other places on the lake, please mind the water pumps and other fixtures that extend out in to the lake.

Same old concern that we are preaching to the converted in attendance at the meeting. A few people told stories of concern (A ten year old out alone on a jet ski, someone holding a baby in their arms while driving a jet ski, a paddler boarder with a dog on board). If you feel comfortable doing so, stop and express your concern, or advise the Exec and someone can have a conversation. If the activity is dangerous or illegal, anyone can call the OPP.

A question was put about paddle boards... how do safety rules (and requirements, i.e. safety kit) apply to them. The Exec will look into it and advise either by posting on website or including in newsletter.

- **Noise:** "Cannon crackers"... Lots of people here them going off, but no one able to identify where they coming from. Suggestion was made that perhaps coming from Lake Jo, but consensus seemed to be that most thought coming from closer by on our lake.
- **Lights:** More and more lights, especially spotlights which are almost blinding. Ironic, that it's sometimes hard to see stars in Muskoka!

Cottagers are leaving them on later and later and all night long. Please, if there is an issue with lighting, talk to your neighbour.

Peter Long mentioned about new bylaws coming down the pipe re dark sky lighting. If the cottage goes through the site planning process then the new requirements kick in, including requirements for special fixtures. All cottagers are encouraged to think about their lighting and be mindful. Mention will be made about this in the newsletter.

- **Dogs and snakes:** Bob and Nancy Currell mentioned that their dog had been bitten by a rattlesnake while nosing around on the side of the road when out for a walk . The dog was taken to the vet, along with a photo of the snake. The vet took one look at the photo and was immediately less concerned... since it was an adult snake!

Adult snakes recognise that the dog is not really a threat and only inject enough venom to cause discomfort. A juvenile, on the other hand, will not know to conserve

venom and will inject everything it has. This is when there is a real problem.

The resolution in this case was to give the dog Benadryl and wait a couple of days for discomfort to subside. By no means does this mean not to take the dog to the vet... but please do get a photo or observe the size of the snake if you are safely able to.

- **Giant Hogweed:** Another one has been spotted growing on the side of the road behind 1101-11 Kendon Road. On right as you are walking towards John Thompson's at the end of the road.

This is located on municipal property. Colleen Cooper, who noted the hogweed last year and again this year will notify the Municipality.

For those who don't know how to recognize this plant, it's like Queen Anne's lace on steroids.

Amanda also made note of a very invasive Japanese bamboo which can be found on Peninsula Road. Originally it was planted intentionally, now trying to eradicate it...

A general reminder was made to all about the importance of maintaining as naturalized an environment, with native species, as possible. There will be a reminder in the August newsletter.

- **Anchoring:** Everyone is reminded to please secure your stuff. A suggestion was made to put your address on any items that might go AWOL. If something disappears then we know where to put it back!
 - **Raft for sale:** There is still a raft - winter flotsam - at the Beech Cottage at 1116 Bass Lake Road... complete with ladder and muskoka chair. If you're missing your raft, please come collect!
 - **Water Hazards:** *There was some additional conversation after the meeting about water hazards more generally. The assembled members of the Exec decided to purchase some orange buoys to replace a few of the "javex" bottle floats marking some of the boating hazards about the lake... as these markers have a tendency (as at present) to sink below the surface of the water.*
- **Facebook group** for association: Peter Long mentioned that there had been one a couple of years ago. Is there any interest in reviving it since there seem to be a lot more younger kids on the lake now...
- **Food Bank:** MLA Ratepayers meeting is in two weeks from now. They accept donations to the West Muskoka Food Bank, which operates out of the church

between Glen Orchard and Mortimer's Point Road.

The average resident of Muskoka lives very near the poverty line. Everyone is also reminded about the Mayor's Golf Tournament, which also raises money.

- **Garage Sale:** Could we get a bin for donations to food bank? Point was made that a cheque is better, as food banks get extra buying power. Interest was expressed for setting up a collection container, if anyone is interested in taking this on and minding it at the Garage Sale.
- **Boat speed...** still problems with boats going too fast in narrow stretches, and also causing wake issues. Suggestion was made that perhaps we wish to install boat speed and/or no wake markers. Chris Turney noted that we should be careful what we wish for... since the entire lake is pretty much narrow waters and we might all be doomed to skiing reunion circles off the crown land if we get too "official" about this.

After the meeting, discussion continued among members of the Exec and it was decided to make our own "No Wake" sign to post down by the restaurant in front of Ben's place. We'll see if that makes any difference, and consider investing in a "real" sign next year

- **Code of Conduct:** *It was mentioned that we do have a "Bass Lake Code of Conduct" ... nothing legally binding, but a reminder to all on the lake about basic cottage etiquette. It will be included as an insert in the newsletter later this summer, by way of reminder to all.*

9. Election Year

Discussion was had about the need for succession planning. Joining the Exec is a good way to get to know your neighbours!

This year both Andrew and Enid are stepping down.

- Julie Chisholm is volunteering to come on as secretary.
- Craig Emmerson has also volunteered to come on as a Director.

As there were no additional nominations from the floor, the slate of candidates is as follows:

Jeff MacDonald
JoAnn Goodwin
Chris Bodanis
Chris Turney
Tim Holland

Art Karantjas
John Sykes
Julie Chisholm
Craig Emmerson
Peter Long

Motion to approve the Executive.

Moved: Amanda Bramall
Seconded: Mike Leicester

Approved.

Motion to approve Jeff MacDonald as (continuing) President.

Moved: Peter Long
Seconded: all in attendance

Approved.

2015-16 Executive as follows:

President: Jeff MacDonald
Vie-President: (has not been declared recently)
Treasurer: JoAnn Goodwin
Secretary: Julie Chisholm
Directors: Chris Bodanis
Chris Turney
Tim Holland
Art Karantjas
John Sykes
Craig Emmerson
Peter Long

10. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff MacDonald at 11:28am.