



Upcoming Events

- **July 6th Pancake Breakfast**
- **Annual Meeting: August 30th**
- **Corn Roast: Labour Day Weekend**

Bass Lake - A Great Summer Tradition

Welcome back everyone! As I reflect on having spent most of my summer life on our beautiful lake, I begin to realize that it really has been an anchor for me and my family. In my non-cottage life I have picked up roots and dropped them down several times to start again. It is no wonder that sitting on the dock in the early morning with a cup of coffee feels so much like home!

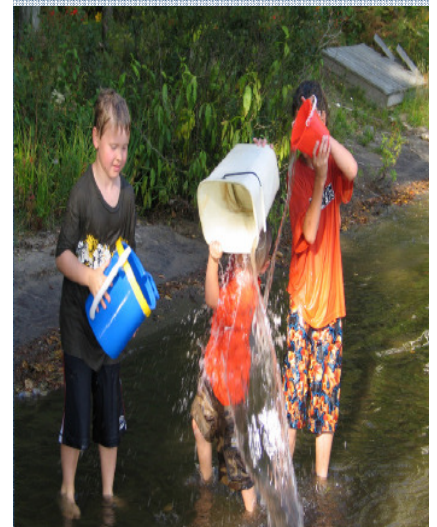
After a more “typical” winter that brought with it lots of snow and a reported ice thickness of over two feet, it is good to see the lake level high and fully re-charged. Spring brought greater rains and contributed to higher lake levels throughout the Muskoka’s. Unfortunately, it also brought the perfect breeding environment for black flies and mosquitoes.

Over the May long weekend, your executive met to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the coming season. In this newsletter you will find much of what was discussed and the exciting events planned for 2008. As well, at our annual meeting last September, we introduced the “Bass Lake Code” – a set of basic principles to remind us all of the stewardship we all share in keeping our lake healthy and safe. A laminated copy will have been provided with our newsletter and we ask you to read, share and display for all to see.

So enjoy this summer on Bass Lake. Enjoy knowing that your lake is being tested regularly, that your association membership supports our lake community and that our lake is a pristine, yet fragile gem that we must all look after.

Peter Long - BLA President

“Water testing and monitoring will be our number one priority this summer.”



2008 Priorities

1. Water quality and the environment.

2. Preserving our heritage and community.

3. Boating and driving safety

4. Membership

Water Testing

We will continue to participate in the Muskoka Lakes Association sponsored water testing program. Last year, the actual testing was conducted by Joanne Davey on behalf of the association.

The total costs to our association this year will be somewhat lower than the previous year and Joanne will be responsible for testing for e.coli and bacteria level, plus water turbidity. Phosphate testing will continue to be handled by a commercial lab. The MLA in conjunction with the Citizen's Environment Watch will administer the program and consolidate our results.

I don't think we can stress enough the importance of this ongoing testing. As of June 8th, the water quality is good and the lake temperature is 10 degrees (F) lower than the same time last year.

Blue Green Algae Sighting

As most of you have already heard, there was a confirmed sighting of Blue Green Algae on the lake last August. And for those of you who don't know about the stuff – it's suffice to say that an outbreak can shut down a lake for recreational (swimming) and drinking/washing purposes.

Although Blue Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) is commonly found and is a natural component of microscopic plants, algae blooms are usually harder to come by – with the conditions needing to be a combination of nutrient rich water, warm weather conditions and plenty of sunlight.

When discovered, we (your association) were quick to act and we isolated the outbreak to three locations on the lake, took the necessary water samples and contacted the Township, the District and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Test results confirmed the outbreak; however, a change in conditions prevented further outbreak.



FAQ's about Cyanobacteria:

Q1. What are blue-green algae?

A1. Blue-green algae, technically known as **cyanobacteria**, are microscopic organisms that are present in lakes and streams. They usually are present in low numbers. Blue-green algae can become very abundant in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water that receives a lot of sunlight. When this occurs, they can form blooms that discolor the water or produce floating rafts or scums on the surface of the water.

Q2. What are the potential health effects from drinking or coming in contact with water containing blue-green algae?

A2. Some blue-green algae produce toxins that could pose a health risk to people and animals when they are exposed to them in large enough quantities. Health effects could occur when surface scums or water containing high levels of blue-green algal toxins are swallowed, through contact with the skin or when airborne droplets containing toxins are inhaled while swimming, bathing or showering.

Q3. What should I do if I see blue-green algae in the lake?

A3. Don't panic. Contact the Bass Lake Association or the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Importance of BLA Membership

We are very fortunate.

The BLA has been recognized as one of the most organized associations in Muskoka by the township and district. Case in point – Our response to the Blue-Green algae outbreak last August.

It is also one of the least supported.

For whatever reason, we struggle each year to grow beyond our core membership – **unless there is a crisis.**

And that really is the point.

Joining the association and contributing annual dues is much like buying insurance – it's about the big things.

Big things like:

Water Quality testing and monitoring;

Gypsy Moth infestation spraying; and,

Lake Crisis response.

Where else can \$50 buy such peace of mind?

If you're not yet a member – please consider joining and protecting our lake now and the future.



2007 Corn Roast Moments



Summer Association Events

Your 2008 BLA Executive

Peter Long – President
 Jon Sykes – Vice President
 Jim Haller – Secretary
 Shirley Roberts – Treasurer
 Bill Green – Past President

Directors:

Joanne Davey – Water Testing
 Chris Bodanis - Newsletter
 Jeff MacDonald
 Margret Long
 Art Karantjas
 Mike Leicester
 John Thompson
 Monica Vergara

There are a boatload of events planned for this summer, starting with our 3rd Annual Pancake Breakfast.

Pancake Breakfast:

This will be held on Sunday, July 6th from 8:30 to 10:00 am at the Bass Lake Restaurant.

Please come out and meet your fellow association members on the lake.

Children's Network:

A children's activity committee has also been formed to bring the children of the lake together and establish long term summertime friends.

Organizers Margret and David Long are using the popular social networking application Facebook to connect, post announcements and organize playdates. A private group (meaning that it is protected from anyone joining) has been established and can be found under: **Bass Lake Cottagers - Kids Unite**

Come out to the July 6th event to sign up with Margret and David!

Annual Meeting and Corn Roast: Labour Day Weekend

Annual Meeting: 10 am @ Foots Bay Community Centre
 Corn Roast: 6 pm @ Nuttall Garden Centre

Boating Safety: Most of you should be aware that Transport Canada has made it mandatory for powerboat drivers to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Guidelines for obtain this card are as follows:

How this applies to operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes	Date at which proof of competency required on board
All operators born after April 1, 1983	September 15, 1999
All operators of boat fitted with a motor under 4 m in length, including personal watercraft	September 15, 2002
All operators	September 15, 2009

You can obtain more information about how to obtain this card by visiting www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety

Bass Lake photos can be sent to chris.bodanis@sympatico.ca for sharing