



**BASS  
LAKE**  
Association

**2016**

*Prepared by Jeff MacDonald*

## Message From The President

Feeling Hot Hot Hot! I think we will all agree that this has been a terrific summer thus far for cottage owners. I have taken the last week of July and first week of August off for holidays this summer and as I type this newsletter, there does not seem to be any rain in the forecast for my entire holiday.

While I am not complaining about the weather, there are some consequences that we all need to be aware of. Firstly, we all need to be aware of the Fire Rating set by the township. The Muskoka Fire Danger Rating is determined using the Fire Weather Index (FWI), an internationally used method for determining the risk of fires in open air. It uses factors such as the relative humidity, temperature, previous 24-hour rain amount, wind directions and wind speed in combination with the forest fuel type and loads to determine the risk of the forest to certain fire types. From this calculation, the Forest Fire Danger Rating is made in consultation with the Fire Chiefs of the six area municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Earlier this summer, the rating was set at high, which put a complete ban on all fireworks. I did send everyone an email to make them aware, but we do have a lot of renters on the lake, so I do need your help to pass on the word. For an up to date Fire Rating please call 1-877-847-1577.

Secondly, the hot weather brings more people to the lake, which brings more activity on the lake. Unfortunately, there was an incident between a jet ski and a tuber this summer where someone was hurt.

Jet skis continue to be popular and we are seeing more of them on our lake. I can appreciate that jet skis are more fun when one can jump a wake. However, a safe distance needs to be maintained at all times from any motorized craft. More importantly, extra caution should be exercised when a skier, wake boarder, tuber, etc. are involved. The right of way should be awarded at all times to the motorized craft that is towing someone.

If you should see someone that should violate these rules, please try to bring your craft and tow to a safe stop. I would encourage you to speak with the other party and inform them of their infraction. In most cases, it is simply a lack of awareness.

Our summers are too short and we all want to make the most of them. However, we all need to be safe and aware of everyone else on the lake.

### BLA Events



**BASS  
LAKE**  
Association  
**Annual Meeting  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>**



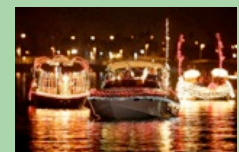
**Bass Lake Lights Out  
July 16<sup>th</sup>**



**Bass Lake Garage Sale  
July 30<sup>th</sup>**



**Bass Lake Poker Run  
August 6<sup>th</sup>**



**Parade of Lights  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Message From The President (continued)

Finally, the lack of rain can bring more frequent visits from our forest friends. I have had multiple reports of bear and raccoon sightings this summer. I have spoken with the Ministry and they recommended that the best way to keep these animals away is to eliminate the sources of food. Don't leave garbage cans outside overnight, secure garbage lids, clean up spilled garbage and don't leave garbage around the cottage, empty the grease trap from barbecues, and feed pets indoors.

This year, we held our AGM at the Foot's Bay Community Centre on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am. The meeting was fairly well attended and we discussed a number of items. If you were unable to attend, please visit our website at [www.basslakeweb.com](http://www.basslakeweb.com) and click the Downloads tab to view the minutes.

I am pleased to report that membership remained constant last year. As you know, our membership had fallen to 46 members in 2013, which represented only 33% of the lake. In 2014, we increased the membership to 88 members in 2014, which represented 67% of the lake and last year our membership came in at 66%.

As I type this email, our membership is only at 42%. For those of you that have not renewed your membership or enrolled, please do so as soon as possible. I have made it easier for everyone this year. You can visit our website, or you can email your dues to our Treasurer, Jo-Anne Goodwin at [muskokakids@sympatico.ca](mailto:muskokakids@sympatico.ca).

### Water Quality

This is reason alone to join the BLA. The BLA continues to be proactive with participation in the Muskoka Lakes Association water quality and testing program. Each year, volunteers from Bass Lake are trained and assigned site testing areas where different types of tests and samples are collected. These tests include: clarity, temperature, phosphorous, calcium, and e.coli. Samples and data collected are forwarded to the MLA office in Port Carling and are analyzed by a certified lab. We are pleased to report that the lake remains in great shape. At the AGM, I did recognize the great work that Chris Turney, Bev Turney, and Chris Bodanis do with this valuable effort. They volunteer their summer time for us to ensure that our water quality remains in tact. I would like to see more of the membership involved and if anyone is interested to learn more and help our trio, please send me an email.

Most of you have received a Septic System Survey from the Township of Muskoka Lakes. The executive made the decision to participate in this program offered by the Township. The purpose of the program is to locate sewage systems that may be causing pollution to the lake. Please complete and send your survey back.

The BLA organizes several events for everyone throughout the summer. Your membership allows us to extend these events to everyone to make your summer more enjoyable. Please visit the 2016 Events tab on our website to learn more about our upcoming events.

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. We are always updating our database, so please visit our website, to make sure we have your correct contact information by completing the Bass Lake Directory Update on the homepage. In addition, we hand deliver this annual newsletter to your cottage to keep you updated.

If you are not currently a member, I would strongly encourage you to re-consider. Your participation will allow the BLA to continue these services and many more.

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

**Jeff MacDonald**

## Pool Noodle Cottage Games

The Dollar Store can be a great place for pool noodles. If you need to keep the kids or cottage guests busy, here are some quick and easy games.

### Pool Noodle Ring Toss

- use wooden dowels in the ground, covered with a pool noodle to make the posts
- use pieces of pool noodle, wrapped into a circle and secured with a piece of dowel and duct tape to make the rings

### Pool Noodle Target Station

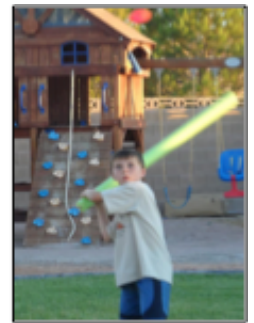
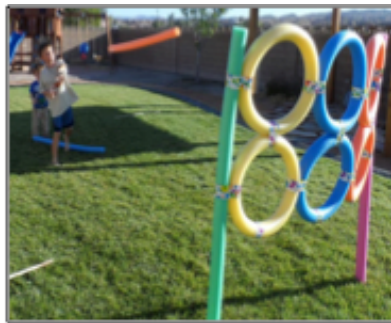
- same idea as the ring toss
- use the dowels to make the posts and pieces of dowel to secure the rings
- duct tape together

### Pool Noodle Croquet

- small pieces of dowel in the ground as the pegs for the noodles
- dowel inserted into a pool noodle for the bat
- beach balls

### Water Balloon Baseball

- wooden dowel inserted into a pool noodle for the bat
- lots of water balloons!



## Indoor SMORES

For those rainy days at the cottage, when the kids are still craving s'mores, here is a great substitute for the campfire favourite...

### **Ingredients:**

- cooking spray
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ¼ cup coconut oil, melted, divided
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 12 large marshmallows

### **Directions:**

1. Grease 12 muffin tins with cooking spray
2. Stir graham cracker crumbs and 2 tablespoons coconut oil together in a bowl. Press cracker mixture into the bottoms of prepared muffin cups.
3. Combine chocolate chips and remaining coconut oil in a microwave-safe bowl; melt in the microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring after each melting, for 1 to 1½ minutes, depending on your microwave. Divide melted chocolate mixture evenly among muffin cups.
4. Press 1 marshmallow horizontally into chocolate in each muffin cup; refrigerate until chocolate is firm, 1 to 2 hours.
5. Set oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source and preheat the oven's broiler.
6. Bake s'mores in the preheated oven until the marshmallows are browned and puffed, 1 to 1 ½ minutes. Return muffin tin to refrigerator to set chocolate and marshmallows, 30 to 60 seconds. Loosen and remove s'mores from the muffin cups with a butter knife.



## Some Muskoka Facts for the Bonfire

Muskoka is home to over 900 lakes, the largest ones being Lake Rosseau, Joseph, Muskoka and Lake of Bays. Those four lakes take up 30% of the lake surface in Muskoka.

Some of the rocks in Muskoka have been dated back as far as 1.5 billion years.

The first inhabitants of the area were the Algonquin and Huron tribes. The name "Muskoka" is thought to have been derived from the name of a tribe chief named "Mesqua Ukee".

The Free Land Grant and Homestead Act was created in 1868, as a way to encourage settlement to the area. This Free Land Act gave 200 acres of land to families that met certain criteria.

Logging was a huge industry when Muskoka was initially settled, and the government collected timber

dues on all pine timber taken, which was highly profitable.

Alexander P. Cockburn was the founder of the Muskoka Navigation Company, and was responsible for bringing steamships to Muskoka. One of the original steamships is still running and is currently offering passenger cruises.

The first resort in the area was built by William H. Pratt and was called the Rosseau House. Guests came from all over England and North America to visit. The popularity of this first resort led to the building of several more resorts.

While tourism during the Great Depression and WW2 declined, it started booming again after the war. People started to vacation in Muskoka once again, because going to a war ravaged Europe was not an option.

## www.basslakeweb.com

I would strongly encourage you to visit the Bass Lake Association website regularly. It is the best way that you can stay updated and informed. Please make sure that we have your proper contact information by completing the **Bass Lake Directory Update** on the home page. This will allow us to email updates to you directly.

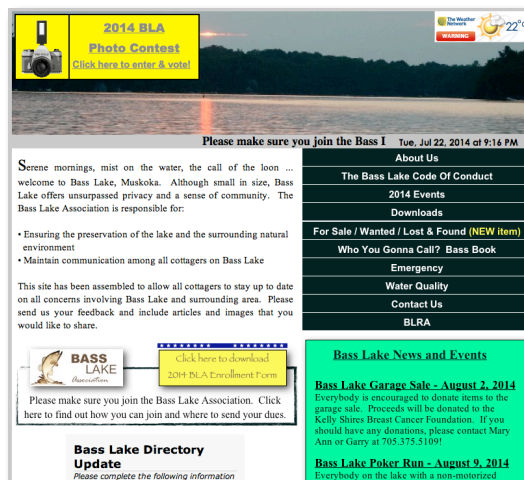
Some of the tabs worth checking out include

### 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 promote a mutual respect amongst our fellow cottagers and to ensure the water safety is a priority of all.

### 2016 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.



### Downloads

You can download a digital copy of this newsletter or previous editions. In addition, you will find our most recent minutes and financials from the AGM to be available.

### 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 / Wanted / Lost & Found

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 item.

### Water Quality

You can learn more about the testing of the water quality that the BLA performs and you can download our most recent water quality report.