



# 2013

*Prepared by Jeff MacDonald*

## Message From The President

This summer has certainly experienced the elements this year. We started off the cottage season with large amounts of rain and an unusually high water level. Thankfully, our lake did not suffer the damages incurred by some of the larger lakes. Our summer then turned to tremendous heat and our lake reached a high of 87 degrees. We now seem to be experiencing cooler than usual temperatures and the evenings seem to resemble the Fall. Who knows ... we may have a heat wave at Christmas!

This year, we held our AGM at the Foot's Bay Community Centre on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We elected an Executive for a new term and we were fortunate to have a number of the executives renew their term. I would like to thank each of the executive members for volunteering their time to make Bass Lake a better place for everyone. I would encourage you to visit our website at [www.basslakeweb.com](http://www.basslakeweb.com) to visit you Executive.

At this point, we have already held our fourth annual non-motorized Bass Lake Poker Run. Enid Wray was responsible for organizing another successful and memorable day on Bass Lake. The turnout was great and we would love to see the participation grow next year. In addition, we will also be hosting our fourth annual Parade of Lights on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. If we should experience rain, we will change the Parade of Lights to Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Rain Or Shine. Our Parade of Lights has been a great way to end the summer and the participation keeps getting better! Last year, the Parade of Lights expanded to the shorelines and everyone is encouraged to decorate their docks, decks, cottages, etc. There is always some "big talk" on the lake after the parade on how people are going to come back bigger and brighter. I challenge everyone to live up to those words.

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. We are always updating our database, so I would encourage you to visit our website. Please update your information on the home page at the Bass Lake Directory Update to make sure we have your proper information.

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

*Jeff MacDonald*

## Upcoming Events



**Annual Meeting**  
June 29<sup>th</sup>



**Bass Lake Garage Sale**  
August 4<sup>th</sup>



**Bass Lake Poker Run**  
August 10<sup>th</sup>



**Parade of Lights**  
August 31<sup>st</sup>

## Ssshhhhhh!!!!



The Township of Muskoka Lakes has set Bylaw 2005-83 to deal with excessive noise. This bylaw covers noise from construction, people, motor vehicles, boats and animals as well as noise restrictions for public places and events.

In order to ensure the enjoyment of being on Bass Lake, it is everyone's responsibility to try to control excessive noise. If you are being disturbed by excessive noise while you are here, you do have some options. You can try to approach the problem on your own. When this does not seem to be a good option, you can contact the Township of Muskoka Lakes Bylaw Officer - Trevor George - at 705 644-2313, day or night. If he is not available,

your other option is contacting the police at their dispatch number 1-888 310-1122 (this is the number for non emergencies).

We want everyone to enjoy their time here and it is important to limit noise from your property after 11 p.m. as the bylaw states. The link for the Township of Muskoka Lakes Noise Bylaw is

[www.muskokalakes.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?pageID=39](http://www.muskokalakes.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?pageID=39)

## Giant Hogweed

I have received a few emails this summer regarding possible sightings of the Giant Hogweed. The purpose of this article is to educate and inform you of the potential risks associated with this plant.

The Giant Hogweed is a perennial plant and it may grow six metres tall. The stems are 2-8 cm in diameter, but may reach 10 cm, and are marked with dark purplish blotches and raised nodules. Numerous white flowers form a flat-topped, umbrella shaped head up to 75 cm across.

The Giant Hogweed is one of a handful of plants that can cause a significant reaction, if sap from a broken stem or crushed leaf, root, flower or seed comes into contact with moist skin (perspiration will suffice). Irritation is not immediate. Within 24 hours, burn-like lesions form, followed by large, fluid filled blisters within 24 hours. On rare occasions the burns and blisters may require hospitalization.

The antidote is to immediately wash your skin thoroughly with soap and water, removing sap and hopefully preventing any reaction with subsequent exposure to sunlight. Treatment with prescription topical steroids early on may reduce the reaction.

If you have Giant Hogweed on your property, it is recommended that you hire a professional

exterminator to remove it. The plant will be removed safely and as few seeds as possible will be spread.



You can download the following links to learn more about the Giant Hogweed:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2010/07/13/giant-weed-that-burns-and-blinds-spreads-across-canada/>

[http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/Biodiversity/Invasive\\_Species/Giant\\_Hogweed\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.web2.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/Biodiversity/Invasive_Species/Giant_Hogweed_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

# Fire Safety Tips

We are very fortunate to have a number of firefighters that reside on our lake. Needless to say, we all need to be more careful. By August 2010, about 64% of almost 900 fires were caused by people. Fires can take place indoors or outdoors, so please make sure everything is set safe and set up properly. The following are some tips that might help you.

## OUTDOORS

### Use a designated pit

It is safer to have fires in an existing pit. If you need to make one, clear a five foot circle of grass, branches, and other debris, leaving just the soil. Then, build your fire in the centre.

### Find a clearer area

Branches that hang over a fire area are a major hazard and they can cause a wildfire.

### Keep water and a shovel close by

To put out a fire: dump water over it, then dirt. Repeat if necessary. We are lucky enough to keep a hose close by to extinguish the fire.

### Never leave it alone

This is pretty simple: In order to keep everyone safe, never leave a fire unattended.

### Keep barbeques clean

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Make sure you remain on hand when using the barbeque.

### Check the fire rating

The township has a sign posted on Hwy 169, between Foothills and Glen Orchard. The rating can vary from Low, Moderate, High, Extreme, and Fire Ban. I would encourage you to visit the Muskoka Lakes Township website if you are not familiar with these ratings. In addition, you can call for an up to date Fire Rating at 1-877-847-1577.

## Address number

Make sure your address number is visible from the road. Consider ways to make your lane easier to navigate for large fire vehicles.

## INDOORS

### Take care of your chimney

Please make sure that your chimney is in good shape. You can have it inspected by a certified chimney sweeper, regularly clean out as much ash as you can, and burn only well-seasoned wood.

### Know your way around the fireplace

To clean out the fireplace's chimney, know where the ash drop and ash pit are. The damper controls the chimney draft and also closes the flue when it is not being used. For woodstoves, the hearth pad is the base, which shields the floor from radiant heat. The flue, if straight, heats the stove faster.

### Smoke alarms

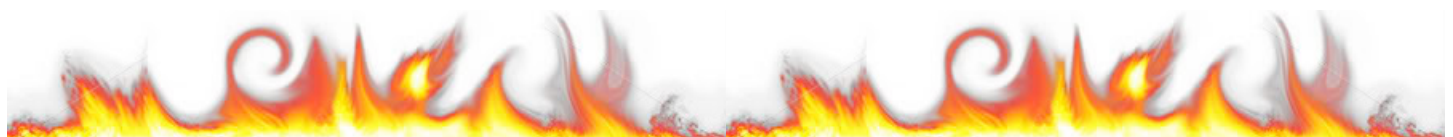
Learn how your smoke alarms work and test them at least monthly. Regularly replace the batteries and replace the alarm itself every eight years.

### Fire extinguishers

Install fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, boat house, boat, and learn how to use them. Ensure they're maintained and pressurized as per manufacturer's instructions.

### Develop a fire-escape plan

Designate family members who are responsible to help guests, people who may have trouble getting out on their own, and pets. Keep keys and cell phones in a handy place, so they can be found during a hasty exit. Once everyone is out and accounted for a meeting place, call 911 or your local emergency number and report the fire.



# Mapleplanked Stuffed S'mores

Follow this quick and easy recipe to really impress your guests this summer. You can bet that they will ask for some more!!!!

## Ingredients

- 8 Jumbo Marshmallows
- 16 squares milk chocolate
- 3 tbsp butter, melted and cooled
- ½ cup crumbled graham wafers (about 3), spread on a plate
- 16 whole wafers fore serving Maple Grilling Plank, soaked in water for 2 hours

## Preparation

Preheat barbecue to medium. Make a slit in the middle of each marshmallow end. Stuff each marshmallow with 2 squares of chocolate (one in each end), hiding chocolate inside. Lightly brush stuffed marshmallows with butter and roll in graham crumbs to coat evenly.

Grill soaked plank for 2 to 3 min on each side (to help intensify smoke flavor and prevent warping). Once plank begins to smoke and crackle, place prepared

marshmallows on top and close barbeque lid. Bake for 3 minutes or until marshmallows are lightly toasted and slightly gooey.

Remove plank from barbeque and set on a metal pan. Serve marshmallows directly on plank with whole wafers for scooping and sandwiching.



## www.basslakeweb.com

Check out the Bass Lake Association website regularly. It is the best way that you can stay informed. Also, make sure we have your proper contact information by completing the **Bass Lake Directory Update** on the home page.

### 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.

### 2013 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.

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



### 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.