



**2015**

*Prepared by Jeff MacDonald*

## Message From The President

I have taken the last week of July and first week off for holidays this summer. I am sitting down to type this newsletter after another stellar summer day. The summer was off to a rough start with all of the rain, but this might be one of those summers where good things come to those who wait.

This year, we held our AGM at the Foot's Bay Community Centre on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The meeting was 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.

We were pleased to announce that the membership had improved last year. In 2013, the membership had fallen to 46 members, which represented only 33% of the lake. However, I am pleased to announce that we increased the membership to 88 members in 2014, which represented 67% of the lake. This improvement is fantastic and I firmly believe that a stronger membership will only make Bass Lake better.

Unfortunately, our improved membership failed to cover costs. It was agreed by the membership at the AGM to increase the annual membership to \$75 per year. This annual membership is still much lower than most lakes and we have not introduced an increase for years. Please note that our costs have not increased significantly. They have increased with the cost of inflation, but we have not countered that with the annual membership.

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. I have attached an enrollment form that you can mail in, or 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).

This year was an election year and I am pleased to introduce two new executives. Julie Chisolm will be taking over the Secretary position and Craig Emmerson will be joining as a Director. Thank you very much for volunteering your valuable time to help make Bass Lake a better place for everyone.

### 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

### BLA Events



**Annual Meeting  
July 4<sup>th</sup>**



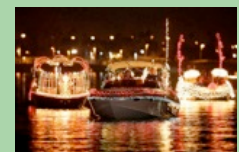
**Bass Lake Lights Out  
July 18<sup>th</sup>**



**Bass Lake Garage Sale  
August 1<sup>st</sup>**



**Bass Lake Poker Run  
August 8<sup>th</sup>**



**Parade of Lights  
September 7<sup>th</sup>**

## Safe and Respectful Bass Lake Boating Reminders

Please share in the responsibility we all have as boaters by being considerate of other boaters, swimmers, property owners and wildlife.

Be mindful of your speed/wake when approaching the green and red markers at the north end of the lake before the launch, **slowing to "NO Wake"(10 km/hr.), as you enter or exit the very narrow section of that bay.** As well, please be mindful of travelling **30 meters (100 feet) from shore** (docks, rafts) as you enjoy your time on the water, as outlined in the provincial safe boating restrictions.

Personal watercrafts (Sea Doos / Jet Skiis) are involved in a disproportionate share of boating accidents. Used irresponsibly, they're also a source of some controversy among the boating and waterfront communities.

Operators of personal watercraft must be at least 15 years of age and have a Pleasure Craft Operators' Card on board. When towing, regulations require an operator, spotter and a seat available for each person under tow.



Keep well away from small boats and people. Circling around boats, canoes, kayaks or swimmers poses a safety hazard. Avoid repetitive circling or buzzing, especially as a courtesy to other boaters and nearby property owners. The large open space in front of the Crown Land is well used for safer circling. Have fun and play safe!!!

## Message From President (continued)

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 is in great shape.

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 2015 Events tab on our website to learn more about our upcoming events. Ironically, the participation for these events continues to grow bigger each year, which greatly contrasts our membership.

[www.basslakeweb.com](http://www.basslakeweb.com) and Newsletter

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. You can join the BLA by completing the inserted enrolment form or by visiting the home page of our website and clicking on the 2015 BLA Enrolment Form.

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

**Jeff MacDonald**

## BEAR Necessities

For those of you that are not aware, we have had a number of bear sightings this summer. Please note that we do not need to be alarmed. We are sharing their “home” with them and we need to respect them. The following are some tips that I have accessed from the Ministry’s website that are very helpful.



### If you encounter a bear

**Stop. Do not panic. Remain calm.**

#### Take these steps:

- quickly assess the situation and try to determine which type of an encounter this might be – sighting, surprise or close encounter
- do not try to get closer to the bear for a better look or picture
- make sure the bear has a clear escape route — don’t corner a bear
- always watch the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight
- get inside, if you are near a building or vehicle
- leave the area, if you are berry-picking, hiking, camping, jogging or cycling
- if you are with others, stay together and act as a group
- if the bear does not get closer to you, slowly back away, talking to the bear in a quiet, monotone voice

#### Do not:

- scream
- turn your back on the bear
- run
- kneel down
- make direct eye contact
- climb a tree
- retreat into water or try and swim — a bear can do these things much better than you

#### If it is a close encounter:

- yell
- wave your arms to make yourself look bigger
- throw objects
- blow a whistle or an air horn
- make noise to try and persuade the bear to leave
- prepare to use bear pepper spray

#### If the bear keeps advancing toward you:

- stand your ground
- use your bear pepper spray (if the bear is within seven metres) or anything else you can find or use to threaten or distract the bear
- fight back as if your life depends on it

#### After the bear leaves:

- tell others about bear activity in the area
- if the bear was eating from a non-natural food source (like garbage or bird food), remove or secure the item that attracted the bear

If you would like to learn more about how to prevent an encounter with a black bear, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/report-bear-problem-bear-wise>

## DARK SKY Tips

- Don’t leave lights on for long periods or all night - use a timer
- Use motions sensing light fixtures – will only come on when motion is detected (will save you up to 90% on electricity costs)
- Use lower wattage lighting
- Use “dark sky lighting” – now recommended for all new and existing buildings in many communities and countries
- “Dark Sky Lighting” are fixtures that shine light down to the ground, not shining light thoughtlessly across property boundaries, across the lake or up into the sky. Shields for existing lights are available for most fixtures at low costs
- get used to the dark – our eyes are quite good at seeing at night!



Get out and enjoy the Bass Lake night sky!

## 4 FUN Reasons To Try Paddle Boarding

### Improved Posture and Balance

You have no choice but to engage your core and maintain good posture when you're trying to paddle board. Basically, you have to balance with good posture throughout this entire workout or you'll fall off. The threat of the water, and a struggle to get back on a moving board after each dunking, will make you very aware of your body positioning in a short amount of time.

### Abdominals and Shoulder Workout

Your core will be working overtime to help stabilize your body position. Then you add in the paddle motion and you get a perfect shoulder and oblique challenge too. Plus, the resistance of the water will help you gain strength.



### Improved Mental State

Each time you fall into the water, I bet you'll laugh like a kid. And, when you start to get the knack of paddle boarding, you'll have a feeling of pride because mastering this fun but tough activity will give you an incredible confidence boost. Gliding through the water can also create a calm and peaceful state of mind making paddle boarding a true mind and body workout.

### Burn Vacation Calories

Paddle boarding, even at a leisurely pace, burns calories. If you want to speed up that calorie burn, you can add in intervals of fast and slow movements to increase the intensity too. That chocolate cake you ate at dinner? Burned!

[www.basslakeweb.com](http://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.

### 2015 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.

A screenshot of the Bass Lake Association website homepage. The page features a navigation menu with tabs for 'About Us', 'The Bass Lake Code Of Conduct', '2014 Events', 'Downloads', 'For Sale / Wanted / Lost &amp; Found (NEW item)', 'Who You Gonna Call? Bass Book', 'Emergency', 'Water Quality', 'Contact Us', and 'BLRA'. There are also several promotional banners, including one for a '2014 BLA Photo Contest' and another for a '2014 BLA Enrollment Form'. The main content area includes a welcome message and a list of bullet points regarding environmental preservation and communication.

### 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

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.