

1. Meeting Called to Order.

The meeting was convened by Jeff MacDonald, at 10:02am, with the introduction of Head Table:

Jeff MacDonald, President
Chris Bodanis, Past President
Chris Turney, Vice President
Enid Wray, Secretary

Direct attention to new edition of Bass Laker (newsletter) and Cottage pamphlet. Everyone should have received one at their door. If not, please help yourself.

Introduction of our political representatives:

Mayor Alice Murphy
Councillors Phil Harding, Ron Brent and Jean-Ann Baranik

2. Greetings and Words from the Mayor

The Mayor offered congratulations at the turnout to this meeting. Spoke generally about the importance of community involvement, ongoing respect for each other and the environment. The Mayor also thanked us for the invitation to attend and reminded us that since we are now officially the #1 Tourist Destination in the world (courtesy of the National Geographic Society) it means that eyes will be on us... and we will see increased traffic... all the more reason to work hard to protect that which we come here for.

3. Tribute to Shirley Roberts

Bass Lake, and Muskoka in general lost a legend on June 23rd. Shirley Roberts lost a short struggle with lung cancer. Jeff MacDonald read a tribute to Shirley that had been prepared by her daughter Andrea.

Please refer to Appendix One for the text of the tribute.

4. The Bass Lake Association Constitution

Jeff MacDonald turned the meeting over to Chris Turney to go over the key points with respect to the proposed changes to the Constitution. Chris began by thanking Peter Long for all of his hard work in preparing the draft for the new constitution. Chris then addressed the key changes.

Bass Lake Association Annual General Meeting Saturday July 2nd, 2011

- AGM:** To be in July, not September (the summer is before us)
- # of Directors:** To be flexible, between 8 - 15 (as per interest waxes and wanes)
- Elections:** New executive members to take office effective Labour Day (allow for transition)
Elections to take place in odd numbered years (two year terms)
- Financial year:** per calendar year (changed from Sept - Aug)

Questions of clarification followed. Critical issue was the phrasing of the timing of the AGM. Wording to be “the Saturday of the long weekend in July, or the first Saturday in July.” This accommodates the situation where July 1st falls on either a Sunday or Monday.

Moved: Peter Long
Seconded: John Thompson

Carried unanimously.

5. The Bass Lake Association Executive

Jeff MacDonald introduced the full Executive roster for approval and additions from the floor..

President: Jeff MacDonald
Past President: Chris Bodanis
Vice President: Chris Turney
Secretary: Enid Wray
Treasurer: Joanne Roberts (Joanne has volunteered to carry on as Treasurer subsequent to Shirley’s death)

Directors: Jim Haller
Jo Davey
Art Karantjas
Peter Long
Tim Holland
John Sykes

Moved: Mike Webster
Seconded: Colleen Cooper

Carried Unanimously

6. Treasurer's Report

Jeff MacDonald indicated that we have not had a chance yet to collect the books and provide a full Treasurer's Report, but did give an accounting of our current financial health.

Savings:	\$	8,715.75
Chequing:	\$	3,217.78
Total:	\$	11,933.53

7. Water Testing

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

- In general the lake is in great shape. Phosphorous and e-coli levels are down in Bass Lake, as they were in general throughout the larger watershed.
- We have been testing four (4) sites on the lake: 2 deep water sites for phosphorous and 2 other sites for e-coli.
- The deep water sites are located in Kendon Bay and at the mouth of bay between Longs' and Ward's. Both e-coli test sites are located at the top end of the main bay near, and slightly south of, the Bass Lake Roadhouse.
- This year we will be adding an e-coli test in Kendon Bay, as well as a test for calcium (necessary for the health of soft-shelled aquatic species).

Questions were taken and the critical one was "how can you explain the improved results?" The answer is hard to say but likely a combination of a number of factors such as improved septic health and maintenance, improvements and care for the shoreline buffer zone and generally improved "safe water" practices.

A question was also asked about how and where the analysis was done, and how the results are cross-referenced for accuracy (degree of confidence). The simple response was that samples are sent to a private lab (Riverstone) in Bracebridge. Comparison of year-to-year results suggests no issues with the quality of the lab analysis. Peter Long pointed out that the District does do independent testing as well and that these tests are compared with other results to check for accuracy. He noted the case a few years ago where our Bass Lake data was compared to the data from the other Bass Lake, and needless to say, there were some anomalies noted!

The Mayor also offered some thoughts on the issue. She spoke about the Muskoka Watershed Council and the work that they do. She also referenced the report which

was released last summer (link available on the website), and, again, reiterated the importance of the volunteer network in doing the testing and working to keep our lakes pristine... they are our #1 asset.

8. New Cottagers

Jeff MacDonald recognised that there has been some turnover of properties since last meeting and invited anyone new to the lake to please stand and introduce themselves.

1047 Hallett's Road	Genevieve Bouchard
1049 Hallett's Road	Pam and Ron Leender
1141-17 Bass Lake Road	Craig and Nicole Emmerson

9. General News Update and Summer Events

Jeff MacDonald invited everyone to please make sure to visit the website (www.basslakeweb.com) on a regular basis. It is a valuable communications tool... perhaps our best tool given the nature of the community. One particular request is to enter in your e-mail address (or any changes in e-mail address) in order to be able to engage in timely communication when necessary.

Jeff pointed out a new section titled "The BassBook." This is a place where you can post information about trades and services that you would recommend to people looking for someone to do that little job that needs doing at the lake but which may be beyond your skill set. Peter Long cautioned us with a proviso that you ask the person you intend to recommend whether or not they wish to be listed. Many are so busy already that they are unable to take on any new clients.

Jeff MacDonald also thanked Bud Wice, who along with his son Jeff Wice, Garry Beaudin and Ben Roberts built the new dock at the Bass Lake Roadhouse launch this winter.

Our summer events are essentially the same as last summer. No need to mess with success.

Sat July 30th 8am to 1 pm

Yard Sale in support of Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Fund

Tables to be had for \$25 each
Mary Ann Beaudin at 375-5109 or maga@vianet.ca and Joan Wice at 375-1257 or jwice@muskoka.ca

Sun Aug 7th @ 8:30am

Pancake Breakfast
Bass Lake Roadhouse
All are welcome

Sun Aug 13th @ 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 3rd @ 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 4th

10. Special Guest: The Power and Sail Squadron

Jeff MacDonald introduced long-time cottager Ken Holland and his friend Keith Shantz, the Boat Pro Officer from the Power Squadron in Bracebridge.

Ken provided a brief overview of the services that the Power Squadron offers. Of particular note are the Safe Boating Courses they run. Anyone without a valid Safe Operator Card needs to make sure they get one!

Of additional note was the fact that they have been contracted by Transport Canada to conduct "Recreational Vessel Courtesy Checks." These are basically compliance checks to ensure that your boat meets all the minimum safety requirements. Upon successful completion of a safety check, the boater receives a window decal to place on their boat. While no promises can be made, if you are out boating and the OPP see that your boat has a compliance sticker, it's likely they will not stop you and will choose the next boat to inspect. So besides the safety aspect, this sticker can be most useful.

***N.B.** In later discussion it was decided that we would pursue organising a date (a little later in the summer) to have Ken and Keith come out for an afternoon and do Courtesy Checks for anyone who wishes. Details re timing will be posted on the webpage and on the Association Boards on the cottage roads.*

Keith distributed copies of the new revised Transport Canada "Safe Boating Guide" (www.boatingsafety.gc.ca) and then went over the basic "Vehicle Safety

Equipment Checklist.” This included active participatory demonstrations. Details regarding these requirements can be found on pages 22-27 of the revised guide.

PFD’s: Keith discussed the minimum requirements and the differences between PFD’s and life-jackets. Things to watch for include: they must fit the people physically on the vessel; they must be approved by Transport Canada; they must be Canadian (look for 1/2 French on the label is a good starting clue!); they must be in good condition (no rips or tears or mould, mildew, grease or dirt); while they can be purchased as fashion statements to accessorise with your outfit, your best bet is still basic red, yellow or orange if you want to actually get rescued.

Tim Holland agreed to model an inflatable PFD for us. If anyone wishes to go this route (they are much more comfortable), be advised that they are expensive (on the order of \$200, replacement canisters are \$30 each), they are only approved for use in an open boat (no cabin use), are not approved for anyone under the age of 16 years, and that you must be wearing it at all times in the boat.

Fire Extinguishers: Your vessel must have a fire extinguisher if it is an inboard (IB) or if it is on outboard (OB) with a fixed fuel tank. If you are able to physically remove the tank from your boat for refueling you do not need a fire extinguisher aboard. The extinguisher should be mounted in the boat in a readily accessible location... and not stored under the back seat near the fuel tank.

For a typical 16’ boat you are required to have a marine type 5BC extinguisher. The coding works as follows:

- 5 able to extinguish a fire 5 square feet in size
- B rated for gasoline fires
- C rated for electrical fires

If you have a larger boat, say a 20’ boat, then you need a 10BC extinguisher.

If your extinguisher is low or old, do yourself a favour and buy a new one. They are not particularly expensive, and they are a requirement under the law. When purchasing a new extinguisher, look for one with a pressure gauge if you can find it. Also, be sure to check the date stamped on the bottom of the canister. They are generally good for 5 years from the date of manufacture (assuming they have not been used). An extinguisher which is 7 years old is totally outdated and will not pass a police inspection.

Paddle and/or Anchor: Your boat must have either or. The anchor allows you to stay put until you find. The paddle allows you to help yourself to find shelter or safety.

Vessel License: You are legally required to have a copy of your license (the paper documentation of your ownership) on board the boat at all times. Your license number must also be displayed on both sides of your bow. All boats must be licensed if they have more than 10hp (ergo the large number of 9.9's you will see on the lakes).

If your boats are licensed to your long deceased grandfather... you need to change the ownership and get it into our own name. Details regarding your obligations around licensing and ownership can be found on pages 6-7 of the revised Guide.

Sounding Devices: All boats - including non-motorised vessels - must have some kind of noise-making device (typically a whistle of some sort). A good idea is to attach a whistle to each life jacket or PFD.

Buoyant Heaving Line: All vessels are required to have a buoyant heaving line of a minimum of 15m in length, on board and readily accessible.

Visual Signaling Devices: Generally you must have some way of indicating your location in the dark or from a distance. For most boats on Bass Lake (up to 19'8" in length) you can have either a flashlight (operable in working order) or a set of flares.

If you choose - or require - flares, you should mind the following. Flares are only good for 4 years from the date of manufacture, so shop carefully. If you are boating on Bass Lake, or the Big Three in Muskoka there is no need for flares as you are never deemed to be more than 1 nautical mile from shore. If however you take your boat out on to Georgian Bay or such then you are required to have flares on board.

Navigation lights are required on all boats between sunset and sunrise (dusk to dawn).

Remember that:

port - red - left
starboard - green - right

You must also have an all round white stern light. These must not be taped off to reduce "glare" for the driver.

Details regarding your obligations around flashlights and flares can be found on pages 22-27 of the revised Guide, while details about Navigation Lights can be found on page 40-45.

FYI... Additional information regarding all of these safety items and requirements is explained on pages 32-46 of the revised Guide.

Boarding Devices: All motorised vessels must have some kind of re-boarding capability. This is typically a swim platform or a boarding ladder.

Following (and during) Keith's presentation there were a number of questions asked. The main issues addressed were as follows:

- A Tow rope is not acceptable as a heaving line. Rescue is contraindicated if the "victim" gets clonked on the head with the heavy end of the tow rope.
- When waterskiing there is no legal requirement that a PFD or life jacket be worn. However, the wearing of one is just good common sense.
- Similarly there is no legal requirement (as yet) that everyone in the boat must wear the PFD or life jacket... simply that it be available on board. Again, common sense indicates that everyone really should wear one.
- American boating licenses are good for temporary use (believed to be 30 days... although need to check for certainty). If you are here for the summer, operating a Canadian boat in Canadian waters, you need to have a valid Canadian Pleasure Craft Operator Card.
- Personal Water Crafts (PWC's... jet skis) can only be used for towing a tuber or skier if they have a minimum third seat. There must be capability to bring the person on board if needs be (in addition to the driver and spotter). This of course presumes that only one person is being towed at a time.
- Phil Harding pointed out to people the best way to intervene if a little tin boat is circling out of control without a hand on the tiller. Rather than attempt to catch the boat, throw out a tow line in front of the boat. This should serve to jam the prop and stop the boat as it runs over it.

Following this discussion, Ken Holland advised regarding the rest of the courses that the Power Squadron offers.

Keith Shantz (subsequent to the meeting itself) advised that he would be happy to come out and run a Boating certification course if there were three (3) or more people interested in getting their Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Keith also indicated that he would be happy to field any additional questions or concerns anyone had. Keith can be reached at 703-765-5820.

Jeff MacDonald thanked Ken and Keith for their time and a most interesting, informative and entertaining presentation.

11. General Items of Discussion and New Business

Noise and water safety concerns. Again this year the issues were raised.

- General conflict between motorised and non-motorised vessels. A plea for consideration of the rights of canoes and kayaks.
- Noise and “driving safety” concerns, especially with regards to the operation of PWC’s... and the general increase in the number of PWC’s plying the lake.
- Concerns regarding wake in the bay leading down to Baldy. Shorelines and docks are being impacted and damaged. General request that people please not bring skiers into that bay, and if you do come into that bay, please treat it as a no (low) wake zone.
- Issues surrounding noise, and other problems, associated in particular with the, again increasing, number of rental properties on the lake.

There was no definitive resolution to any of these items, although a number of points were made.

We are preaching to the converted at the meeting. This means that it falls upon us, as neighbours, to have the friendly chat when we see things that are of concern or not as they should be. If you have the chat and are not satisfied with the outcome, or are not comfortable with having the chat in the first instance, please feel free to call on a member of the executive and we will pick up the issue on your behalf.

The association did produce a guide for cottagers (the pamphlet that was dropped along with your copy of the Bass Laker). This guide was really directed towards the rental crowd. It is our hope that all who rent their cottages will leave a copy of this guide in the cottage for their renters. The guide is also posted on-line. We hope that those who rent will also include a link to the website, the guide and the Code of Conduct in whatever information and materials they are making available to potential renters.

The Mayor did point out that we could choose to apply for “Vessel Operation Restrictions” to address some of our concerns. Details regarding this may be found on page 60-62 of the revised Boating Guide (previously mentioned). This was left as food for thought.

Wildlife: Bears Alert

“The bear” has been spotted at all hours of the day (early am to late pm) along the length of Kendon Road. It was also noted that there have been sightings of a Mama Bear and 4 cubs on the Bass Lake Road. All who are walking or otherwise on or near

the roadways are advised to be watchful. Further, people are reminded that we all need to be vigilant and be "Bear Aware."

12. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff McDonald at 12:25pm.

APPENDIX #1: Tribute to Shirley Roberts

Shirley was born on March 25, 1935 in Gravenhurst. As a young girl she enjoyed music, particularly playing the trumpet and she was involved in numerous sports. She worked for the town of Gravenhurst as the town clerk and then worked for a short time in Toronto for the Workman's Compensation Board. In 1957 she married Ben and moved to Bass Lake where together, they began the Bass Lake Store. It is here that she began to develop a strong sense of community.

That sense of community began with her family. Shirley raised three girls, Andrea, JoAnne and Jenny while working in the store, running a motel and keeping track of Benny! She even found time to take care of small cabins in their early Bass Lake days, which were rented every summer by a family from Leamington.

In the greater community, Shirley liked to be involved in various activities in Foot's Bay and MacTier. She helped organized Christmas celebrations, fund raisers and parades. She also worked diligently for the Foot's Bay Fire Department as they began to establish themselves in the area. Shirley gave much of her time to help plan dances, special events and fund raisers for the station now known as "Fire Station One. "

That very same station honoured Shirley this past Monday, June 27th as they recognized the contributions she made to the community by serving as the first civilian dispatcher. On June 23rd after Shirley's passing the following memorandum was issued by the office of the fire chief in the Township of Muskoka Lakes: "It is with deepest sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Shirley Roberts, wife of Ben Roberts, former Station Chief of Foot's Bay, on June 23rd, 2011. Shirley will be sadly missed by all. Shirley has been at Ben's side for over half a century serving our community. She was our first dispatcher over 50 years ago. Long before the days of radios and pagers, a fire phone system was in place. There was a 'dedicated' fire phone at their house. When someone had a fire they would call the 'fire phone' which would ring in their house until answered. Then Shirley would call the crews on the phone system and advise them about the fire. All municipal buildings are requested to lower their flags to half-mast in respect for Shirley." Two honour guards stood watch during Shirley's memorial service and firefighters from various stations attended in full uniform.

Shirley brought the same dedication to her role as treasurer for the Bass Lake Association which began many years ago. Her family has been moved by the number of Bass Lake cottagers who have paid their respects with kind words and happy memories. People recall coming to the lake for the first time and meeting Ben and Shirley. Fond memories consist of being made to feel very welcome and at home on Bass Lake. One of Shirley's favourite Bass Lake events has been the annual corn roast which she and Ben began many years ago on the beach in front of the Bass Lake Store. That was an event that included everyone, young and old alike which is the part of community that Shirley liked best.