

The Bass Laker



Prepared by Jeff MacDonald

Bass Lake – Ours to Treasure

Another summer is now upon us and I must stop and reflect as to how lucky we all are to be able to share with nature this beautiful lake in central Ontario. For many of us, the lake is a place where we slow down a little, get closer to nature (save for the mosquitoes) and take the stress out of life. Yet, a changing climate, shifting weather patterns and our own activities may be transferring a different kind of stress to our lake!

This past winter brought us some wonky weather with a tremendous windstorm in December followed by a lighter than normal snow pack along with the odd freezing rainstorm. Still, the lake level remained high through the ice break up and early spring showers in March and April provided a good flow of fresh water throughout our watershed.



Over the May long weekend, your executive met to discuss the coming season. One of the key points of discussion was water flow management and ensuring that our lake continues to maintain its integrity. In this newsletter you will find much of what was discussed at our meeting. We are introducing some new events and taking a break from others. The notion of moving our annual association meeting to the beginning of the summer is something for all of us to consider and we'll talk more about this in the fall.

We are all stewards of the lake and, as such, I encourage all of you to get involved, continue to support your association and do your part to ensure that health and integrity of our lake is maintained - both now and for decades to come.

Chris Bodanis

Upcoming Events



Pancake Breakfast
July 5th



Bass Lake Garage Sale
August 1st



Bass Lake Poker Run
August 15th



Annual Meeting
August 30th

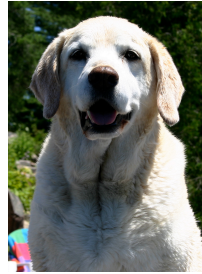
Pleasure Craft Operators Card



As of Sept. 15th, **ALL** operators of a pleasure craft must have their Boat Operators Card.

Massasauga Rattlesnake versus Muskoka

Last year at the Pancake Breakfast, I shared with you a story that our family will never forget. Last June, a rattlesnake bit our oldest dog. Despite the fact that he still has the scars from that night, he is doing well and made a full recovery. However, this was a scary situation that we had never encountered and we are hoping that our experience might help you.



What if your pet is bitten?

If your pet is bitten you may see signs of swelling, pain, or discomfort. Despite the small size of most pets there have been few fatalities when medical treatment has been sought quickly. When we called the veterinarian that night, they recommended that we give Muskoka Benadryl. It is my understanding that the Benadryl would help for pain and the swelling. Needless to say, the MacDonalds have lots of Benadryl on hand now. Some other tips include:

- Keep your pet calm, restrict their movements
- Splint the extremity and if possible keep the limb below heart level
- Carry the pet, do not let it walk
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet, DO NOT apply ice, DO NOT cut the bite area and apply suction
- Take your pet immediately to a veterinarian. In Parry Sound, you can call the Cottage Country

Animal Clinic at 705-746-4444 or the Parry Sound Animal Hospital at 705-746-5271.

What if you or a friend is bitten?

Stay calm. Although there may have been a bite, the rattlesnake does not always inject venom. This is called a dry bite and allows the snake to save its venom for real prey. That said, snakebites are a medical emergency and should be taken seriously. Within 15 minutes most bites are recognizable by the development of discolouration, swelling, and pain at the bite site.

- Do not panic, remain calm. Reassure the bitten person. The calmer the person is the better they can assist in their own recovery
- Have the bitten person sit down, do not let them walk. Movement will increase blood flow and the flow of venom through the body
- If bitten on the hand remove rings or any constricting jewelry immediately
- Wash and cleanse the wound
- Splint the limb to reduce movement, if possible keep it below heart level
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet, DO NOT apply ice, DO NOT cut the bite area and apply suction
- Call 911. They will advise on transportation to the hospital and notify hospital staff
- Attempt to identify the snake, take notes on colour, pattern, tail shape, head shape, and size. DO NOT attempt to capture the snake.

I hope that you never encounter snakebite like Muskoka. However, some of these points may help.

Jeff MacDonald

♣♦♥♠♣♦ Bass Lake Poker Run – August 15th ♣♦♥♠♣♦

Everybody is invited to ante in! Welcome to the first annual Bass Lake Poker Run. However, you can only use a non-motorized watercraft to collect your cards. At the end of the day, we will meet up to see who has the best hand.

There will be three starting groups: Kayaks, canoes, and pedal boats (NO motorized craft). Points are awarded for your poker hand (one card picked up at each stop) and for answers to skill testing questions that will be asked at each stopping point around the lake. Bonus points will be added (or subtracted) for

miscellaneous items. (Details will be included in the entry form).



Entry Fee: \$20 per boat. 50% of the entry fees will be donated to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.
Prizes: The remaining 50% of the entry fees will go to the top three finishers. 50% to first place, 30% to second place, and 20% to third place. Any prize donations would be much appreciated.

To find out more or to pre-register, you can email Bev Turney at bevturney55@hotmail.com

Home-Made Beaver Baffler

Here's a quick quiz: Which is smarter:

- A. Human being (brain weighing approximately 4 pounds) or
- B. Beaver (brain weight approximately 4 ounces)?



Until recently the answer was B. But thanks to a homemade beaver baffler, it appears that humans have finally outwitted these buck-toothed busybodies.

Last year, we were experiencing a lot of trouble with a culvert just before my place. The beavers would continue to dam up the culvert. No matter how many times we cleared the twigs, mud and branches, the beavers would have the dam reconstructed within hours.

I purchased a couple lengths of PVC piping with a cap for the end. I then drilled several holes at the capped end. After clearing the dam, we installed this baffler into the culvert. The capped end remained under water and it would stick out beyond the culvert approximately 10 feet. The beavers returned that night and packed up the front of the culvert. However, the water continued to flow through the culvert – thanks to the homemade beaver baffler. The beavers can't figure out how to plug it up. I am proud to say that we beat the paddle-tailed architects and we have not seen them return to this culvert.

Past my property, there are two culverts where Long Lake flows into Bass Lake. This is an area where the

beavers rule and they have built a number of dams. The problem with these dams is when one should break, they all break and they flood Bass Lake. Not only does our lake level rise, but also the water is polluted.

Thanks to Mike & Drew Leicester, and Mike Ward, we travelled through the woods to the first big dam with our homemade beaver baffler. We installed this baffler during the May long weekend and it continues to flow.



We have lowered the water level behind the dam and our hopes are to keep it at a level that might prevent these problems. For those of you on the lake that are battling wits against these tenacious creatures, I encourage you to build and try your own beaver baffler. Let us know how you make out.

**Is your neighbour a member of the Bass Lake Association?
If not, please encourage them to join.**

2008 – 2009 Bass Lake Association Executive Members

Chris Bodanis	President	chris.bodanis@sympatico.ca
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John Sykes	Director	sykesj@uwaterloo.ca
Bev Turney	Director	bevturney44@hotmail.com
Monica Vergara	Director	mv.itc@rogers.com

What Does The Bass Lake Association Do For You?

Some of you may ask this question, so here are some of the things that the Bass Lake Association does for you. This list is in no particular order:

- Purchase, set out, and maintain the water buoys so that all boaters are aware of the shallow spots
- Purchase insurance to cover various liabilities
- Routinely collect and test water samples from various locations around Bass Lake
- Investigate concerns about water quality and involve appropriate authorities (District, Township, MOH, etc)
- Work with developers to mitigate the risk of development (e.g. Oviinbyrd Golf Course)
- Availability of 'experts' in a number of areas, including water quality
- Respond to cottagers concerns about proposed developments on or around the lake, and undertake formal delegation to the Township if appropriate
- Maintain some reserve funds to allow it to respond more quickly to emergency situations such as gypsy moths
- Maintain current lists of cottagers on the lake



**BASS
LAKE**
Association

- Map showing who owns what lot on the lake
- Review and analyze the property tax situation as it relates to Bass Lake
- Sponsor several social events for Bass Lake each year (e.g. Pancake Breakfast and the Poker Run)
- Provide answers to cottagers' questions about what is going on
- Provide a Facebook page largely aimed at kids activities
- Provide a web site with a Members Only section at www.basslakeweb.com
- Annual meeting to provide accountability to Members
- Bring in interesting and relevant speakers at the AGM and other times
- Annual newsletter
- And much more.

As you can see, the Association does do a lot for it's Members and the list will continue to grow. However, participation is vital for the well being of the lake. If you know of any cottagers that are not members, please encourage them to join and show them how the BLA helps the lake and how we can help them.

www.basslakeweb.com

We have updated the Bass Lake Association website and we encourage you to visit the site. You will find some new sections to the website which include the following:

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.

2009 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. As you will see, the Pancake Breakfast on July 5th is our next event.



Members Section

All members of the Bass Lake Association will be able to access this password-protected area. You will find a directory for all members of the Bass Lake Association, which will include cottage address and phone number. We also have a section dedicated to Water Quality where you can access a Lake Data Sheet that is published by the District Municipality of Muskoka. We have also archived past newsletters for your review.

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.

We are open to any other ideas that you may have for our website. Please do not hesitate to submit your ideas to any of the Executive Members.