

**1. Meeting Called to Order.**

The meeting was convened by Jeff MacDonald, at 10:13 am, with the introduction of the Head Table:

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

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of last year's AGM were distributed. These minutes have also been posted on the website. We have received no communications regarding any inaccuracies.

The minutes were approved by a motion as follows:

Moved:                    Kathy Bryden  
Seconded:                Colleen Cooper

Carried.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Joanne Goodwin presented the Treasurer's Report. *(N.B. Copies of the Treasurer's Reports are available for viewing on the Bass Lake Association website <[www.basslakeweb.com](http://www.basslakeweb.com)>. Watch for an AGM button to appear. Copies of the minutes of the AGM's will also be available for viewing.)*

For the current fiscal year the summary is as follows:

Income	\$3 370.00
Expenses	\$2 531.47
Balance	\$12 101.07 (includes savings)

The two largest expenses, on an ongoing basis, are dealing with the beavers (budgeted for \$1000 per year and usually fully spent) and the water testing (comes close to \$1000 per year).

Out income was up last year due to our dedicated push to increase membership (refer to the 2012 AGM Minutes for details).

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Our cash savings have increased as well, as a result, and the bank is recommending that we put these funds into a cashable GIC. No decision was made on this at the meeting.

Enid followed up with her investigations regarding signage. She investigated a number of options but none that would have been feasible on a cost per basis.

All members were reminded, and asked to, simply talk to their neighbours. Chris Bodanis referred to some recent studies on neighbourhood inclusion and the power of being neighbourly. Apparently it works.

A question was put about the beaver dams and the need to control the water levels on the lake. Discussion ensued regarding the current “high” water levels, and all were reminded about the very low water levels last summer. All in all, we are in a good place at present, and well equipped to deal with any possible summer drought.

*(A fuller account of the issues around the “beaver budget” may be found in the minutes from the 2012 AGM. These minutes are available on the website: <http://www.basslakeweb.com>).*

### **4.    Water Testing and Water Quality**

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

Chris began with some observations about the high water levels. To the best of our knowledge there has been little serious damage as a result of the wet spring and late snow melt. This is not to say that there aren't bits of missing dock or raft out there. It was noted that there is a 6x6 raft gone AWOL. If anyone finds it, please let someone on the Executive know.

Our lake level has been, historically, relatively stable. Presently we are at a healthy lake level. Should there be a situation like last summer with the serious drought, we would be able to withstand the lack of water.

Again this past year, both the Muskoka watershed in general, and Bass Lake in particular had a very good year. In general the lake is in great shape. Of particular note are our e-coli levels which are very good indeed.

Chris noted that that last year's testing included calcium, necessary for the development of soft shelled aquatic species (crayfish, clams). Across Muskoka in general there is some concern about calcium levels. On Bass Lake, levels are low, but they are within acceptable ranges.

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Chris also noted that the clarity of the water was very good and the caution was again made to be mindful of soap and garden fertilisers. We are still minding the runoff from the Golf Course, but there is little to report from last year on account of the dry summer, and lack of runoff.

This year the [Muskoka Lakes Association \(MLA\)](#) will be using a new company to do the water testing. Testing this year will be for phosphorous, e-coli and calcium. All of the testing is now done remotely (whereas some testing used to be cultured here on the lake in the past).

A question was asked about whether or not, and why we aren't, testing for [giardia](#). There was no ready answer, but that it hasn't been tested for.

A question was also put about the testing for calcium. It was noted that short of liming the lake (dumping in vast amounts of calcium carbonate) it was a naturally occurring state, the lake being on Canadian Shield bedrock, and there was little to be done about it. It was suggested that perhaps we should ask the MLA why they are testing for calcium, and suggest that they test for something else instead.

Some discussion was had about boat traffic, and the impact on water quality. The exact consequences are unknown, but it was noted that the recreational marine industry is very sensitive to emissions and follow very strict guidelines.

Further to the discussion of high water levels, all were reminded to be very careful when packing up in the fall. Get everything as far away from the water as possible, pull everything that can be pulled, and be very diligent about securing any items that must be left in the water to ensure that they do not get pulled away with the ice or float away with high water.

Everyone was reminded again of the "[Lost and Found](#)" page at the website. If you have missing items, put up a note and hopefully it will find its way home if/when someone finds it.

Finally, with regards to water related issues, Bus Wice noted that the culverts on the Bass Lake Road had all been within an inch of overflowing over the road - with the risk of taking out the road - earlier in the spring. Jeff MacDonald took the opportunity to thank Bud, and Ben Roberts, for all of their work on the roads and lake levels on our behalf.

### **5.    New Cottagers**

Jeff MacDonald invited anyone new to the lake to please stand and introduce themselves.

1098 Bass Lake Road

Jeff Wolfe

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1000 - 15 Kendon Road

Michelle Magwood and Johan  
Verhaeghe

### 6.    **General News Update and Summer Events**

Everyone was reminded again that there is a pink box for liquor store bottles on the Bass Lake Road.

There have been a number of bear sightings at the end of Kendon Road. Everyone is reminded to practice best bear etiquette. This includes not having bird feeders out at this time of year. If you must, remember to bring them in at night. Additionally, be sure to rinse all recyclables before putting them out. Everything we can do to reduce the attractiveness of a cottage will help keep the bear(s) from wanting to come around.

Notice was also made of the presence of rattlesnakes and an abundance of turtles, especially on the roads. Be mindful. If you see a turtle on the road, please do stop and give it a gentle assist to get where it's going to on the other side of the road.

Our summer events are:

Sat Aug 3rd 8am to noon

#### **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](mailto:maga@vianet.ca) and Joan Wice at 375-1257 or  
[jwice@muskoka.ca](mailto:jwice@muskoka.ca)

Sat Aug 10th @ 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 Aug 31st @ 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 1st

**7.    General Items of Discussion and New Business**

**Garbage:** Please do not leave garbage out as an invitation to critters. Municipal garbage bins are located on Bass Lake Road. The plea was made that if you do use these bins, be sure to latch the bin properly after disposal. Additionally, if the bin is full, please don't leave garbage out beside the bin. Recently cottagers along the road cleaned up 11 bags of garbage that had been dragged into the bush and scavenged. It was a mess!

Alternate options for disposing of garbage are at the public bins at Foot's Bay, or at either the Tower Road or Eveleigh Road Dump (Port Carling).

It was suggested that perhaps some signage about how to use the bins properly would be a good idea. Any volunteers?

It was also noted that there seems to be some correlation between garbage problems and renters. It was suggested that if you have renters near/beside you, perhaps it would be worthwhile just mentioning to them...

Along similar lines, it was also requested that if you are having work done on your property, please ask/direct your contractor (or whomever is doing the work) to please NOT dump materials in the bush on the other side of the road. There have been some instances of building materials being dumped. Not nice. Please also make sure that tree debris is not dumped in the bush either.

**Hydro Access Clearing:** Everyone affected should have received a notice earlier in the spring advising that Hydro crews would be coming through this summer doing maintenance under the lines. This notice provided opportunity for cottagers to advise of any "special consideration" that they would like Hydro to mind when they get to their property. Apparently this clearing is going to happen in 3 stages. The first stage has been completed. It was unknown exactly when they would be back again to continue.

**Sandbagging:** A question was put about the sandbagging operations between Bass Lake and Lake Joseph. This is unofficial and on a need to know basis.

**Non-Resident Owners:** All were cautioned by Bob Currell that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is getting very aggressive with non-resident owners vis-a-vis rentals. Bob received a demand from the CRA requiring them to submit all records for any leases or rentals of their property since they first took ownership. They are after a 25% tax which is due on such transactions. Fortunately, since they had never rented their property, this was not an issue. Regardless, all who rent, resident or none, are advised to heed.

**8.     Executive Election**

Nominations were opened to the floor. There being no new nominations from the floor, the following individuals were considered elected.

Moved:	Colleen Cooper
Seconded:	Mike Ward
	Carried.

**BLA Executive 2013-2015 (two year terms)**

President	Jeff MacDonald
Vice-President	Chris Turney
Treasurer	JoAnn Goodwin
Secretary	Enid Wray
Directors	Chris Bodanis Peter Long Tim Holland John Sykes Art Karantjas Andrew Baldwin

**9.     Peter Long, Muskoka Ratepayers Association**

Peter pointed out that the ratepayer’s association has a different focus than the MLA. As opposed to being a cottager’s association, the Ratepayers Association protects and promotes the needs and interests of all property owners. Their focus is on the year round viability of Muskoka as a place for all seasons, with jobs to sustain it. *NB: Learn more at their website, <<http://www.tmlra.on.ca>>.*

A major issue this year has been that of taxation. Bass Lake cottagers contribute \$420 000 in tax revenue each year. Those monies are split between the Township and the District, and Education.

It was noted that the [District Municipality of Muskoka](#) overlays 6 different governments (the Towns of Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville, as well as the Townships of Georgian Bay, Muskoka Lakes and Lake of Bays).

In total these 6 jurisdictions elect 51 politicians and have 7 Finance Departments, 7 Planning Departments, 7 Building Departments, etc. In short, there is a lot of government.

[One Muskoka](#) (*not affiliated with the MRA*) has been attempting to open a discussion into exploring what savings might be had through co-operation and streamlining of some service delivery. Of particular note is tourism. Currently there are 7 (competing) tourism promotion vehicles. Would they not work better together?

A representative from One Muskoka will be the keynote speaker at the MRA Annual General Meeting on Sat July 20th. The meeting will be held at the Port Carling Community Centre, starting at 10am. The AGM will also feature a representative from Muskoka Algonquin Health to keep everyone up to date regarding local health issues.

Discussion inevitably returned to the situation with the Bala Falls Power Plant. (Information may be found at the Swift River website, <<http://balafalls.ca>> or in the minutes from the [Bass Lake Association 2012 AGM, available at the website](#).

The power plant has been approved after many challenges. The Township is now going after the MNR regarding a canoe portage. It appears that Option #1 (the lesser option) will be the one to be constructed. It was suggested that somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$500 000 has been spent - by the Township - on fighting this. This is still going to be an election issue, come 2014, but for different reasons.

It was suggested that everyone send one last letter to our local Councillor, Jean-Ann Baranik <[jbaranik@muskokalakes.ca](mailto:jbaranik@muskokalakes.ca)>, encouraging the Council work with the MoE and let Option 2 proceed. People might also want to send a letter to Ron Brent <[wrbrent@muskokalakes.ca](mailto:wrbrent@muskokalakes.ca)> and Phil Harding <[pharding@muskokalakes.ca](mailto:pharding@muskokalakes.ca)>, who have shown an openness to rational thought where the entire project is concerned.

## **10.    Chris Turney, Report from the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA)**

Chris reminded us that the MLA is a very active organisation with approx. 2 500 members, mostly cottagers. You can find out more about the MLA at their website <<http://MLA.on.ca>>. Chris reminded that if anyone is interested in joining the MLA individually they do offer an “Advantage” discount card accepted by retailers around Muskoka.

Chris informed the group about the [MLA Safe Boating Initiative](#). With BoatSmart, the MLA is offering full day practical on the water sessions. These sessions are especially aimed at youth and women. Learn more at the MLA website.

Also new this year is the [MLA Student Bursary](#), an award in the amount of \$5 000. This bursary is designed to help a local area student pursue post-secondary studies in an area of study which will contribute to the local knowledge base.

Also new this year is the [MLA Recommended Insurance Programme](#). If you are considering making changes to your cottage insurance, get the contact details for Martin

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Merry & Reid from the MLA website. They will provide you with a “complimentary coverage consultation” and a quote.

Check the [MLA Events Calendar](#) to find out about a variety of interesting seminars and presentations which will be held over the summer and fall months. Seminars will include Muskoka landscaping challenges, cottage inheritance issues, cottage insurance issues, cottage renovations, and more.

### **11. Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff McDonald at 11:20am.

Moved:            Peter Long  
Seconded:        Andrew Baldwin

Carried.



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Red text... make sure documents are there or confirm name or spelling or such

Poker Run... on website... change start time to 10am... also link to register with me via e-mail is gone

AGM Past Minutes... can't find on website... thought they were there?