

1. Meeting Called to Order.

The meeting was convened by Jeff MacDonald, at 10:06 am, with the introduction of Head Table:

Jeff MacDonald, President
Chris Bodanis, Executive Member
Enid Wray, Secretary
Joanne Goodwin, Treasurer

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of last year's AGM were posted on the website last summer. A number of circulating copies were made available for today's meeting.

We have received no communications regarding any inaccuracies. Minutes will be posted again on the website for interested persons to re-visit.

Some discussion ensued regarding these circulating minutes. Do we really need them? Could they be double sided if so. No need to print as many.

The motion was made to approve the minutes.

Moved: Enid Wray
Seconded: Jennie Keating

Approved.

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>. Follow the prompts under the "Downloads" tab on the website).

For the current fiscal year the summary is as follows:

Income	\$2 450
Expenses	\$4 1 50.43
Balance	\$10 433.99 (includes savings)

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The three largest expenses, on an ongoing basis, are our FOCA membership, dealing with the beavers and the water testing. Generally, expenses remain pretty constant year over year.

This year we have a few additional expenses.

- We increased the personal coverage insurance for the person's looking after the beavers and sandbags (water level control), which came with an increased cost.
- Beacon Environmental (water testing) forgot to bill us beyond the deposit last year, so that shows up in this year's accounts.

A brief discussion was had regarding the beaver situation. It was agreed to increase the beaver budget to \$1500, just in case the extra room was needed.

Moved: Jennie Keating
Seconded: Dave Cooper

Approved.

It was noted that the trend we have noticed the last few years is continuing: our expenses exceed our income in any given year. The basic issue is that membership in the Bass Lake Association is down. Last year we had 46 members (there are approx. 136 cottages on the lake). Most similar associations consider 50% to be a pretty good membership rate. To cover expenses we need 60 members.

Discussion was had about how to get more pro-active about recruiting/maintaining membership in the Association. While we have savings, they are there in case we have a major situation that must be dealt with quickly. We need not wait until we have a problem to get our membership rate up.

- Please encourage people who are not at the meeting. You know if your neighbour is here!
- Please update your personal contact information on the membership list being circulated.
- Publicise the value, and the cost, of the "beaver control" and the water testing.
- Everyone please take a few forms at the end of the meeting and distribute to your neighbours
- Garage Sale... set up a membership table (Bud Wice will talk to the ladies who run the garage sale about this)
 - *Subsequent to the meeting itself, a decision has been made to create two shifts to staff this table. First shift 8am - 10am. Second shift 10am - noon. Jeff MacDonald has volunteered to person the table for one shift. We are looking for a volunteer to person the table for the second.*

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- Post list of members on the BLA website <www.basslakeweb.com>... Jeff MacDonald also to e-mail list to everyone present so we know definitively who is and isn't a member among our neighbours
- Jeff MacDonald also to post the Financial Statement on the website as well so that people may show others where the money goes definitively
 - *Subsequent to the meeting itself, a decision was made not to post the financials directly. Rather, a request button will be posted on the website. This will help ensure that this information stays within the membership.*
- Jeff MacDonald to create an "invoice" that we may "drop" in our neighbour's doors along with the membership update form and financial statement, to encourage them to join and pay their dues
 - *Subsequent to the meeting itself, a PDF has been created and made available for drop off to your neighbours if you didn't see them at the meeting. This form highlights the work the BLA engages in, and provides an address for mailing in membership dues.*

Discussion was also had about reaching out to new people on the lake. More on that a little later...

4. **Water Testing and Water Quality**

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

Chris noted that, as of last summer, we are working with a new company, Beacon Environmental. The contract went out to tender last year and it seems that every time it does there is a new company chosen. As a result of this, there has been a change in the sites sampled, and the frequency of the testing.

We are testing four (4) times this year, for phosphorous, e-coli and total coliform. Each test is site specific.

Once again, Bass Lake had a very good year last year. In general the lake is in great shape. Beacon has assigned each lake either a red, yellow or green light status... and Bass Lake is green.

Chris did note that one site, on one test, measured an e-coli reading of 11, which was higher than the Muskoka Lakes threshold of 10 micrograms per litre. This site is between the Bass Lake Roadhouse and the first bay up past Ben Roberts. It was noted that there has been some construction taking place near this sampling site which could have caused some movement of an old bed.

It was noted that the fact of this reading does not necessarily mean that there is a problem. Stewart Lake also recorded a similar transitory spike when road construction was taking place near the shoreline.

The results for this site will be monitored closely to determine whether this was a one time “blip” or something more systemic. Discussion was had about the delay between testing, and the receipt of test results... one year. Chris Bodanis and Chris Turney noted that they do an incubation in advance of sending the test sample off to the lab. They will mind the status of the sample before they send it to the lab, as it could give an earlier signal if this problem is recurrent. In which case, a decision could be made to do additional testing.

It was observed that people need to be mindful of septic tank maintenance. It was suggested that an item be included in the newsletter... especially for the sake of any new cottagers, who may have no idea about septic tanks and septic health.

5. New Cottagers

Jeff MacDonald invited anyone new to the lake to please stand and introduce themselves. There were no new cottagers in attendance.

It was noted that Bruce Davey’s cottage has been purchased by Dave Siftt... and that an invitation has been extended.

It was also noted that the old Sugar cottage, renovated by Shawn Woof, has been sold. Apparently it closes at the end of the summer... at which time an invitation will be extended.

6. Summer Events

Our summer events are:

Sat July 19th, evening

Bass Lake Light Out ** New Event!!****

Everybody is encouraged to turn their lights out and enjoy our clear night sky.

If everyone can participate, it will make for a great night to enjoy the stars!

Find information on the website and BLA notice boards.

Refer also to the e-mail flyer.

Sat Aug 2nd 8am to noon

Yard Sale in support of Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Fund

Tables to be had for \$25 each

None of these funds go to research or treatment
All proceeds go to helping women get through daily life, by providing funds for items not covered elsewhere through various insurance plans (rent, housekeeping, household bills, wigs, counselling, etc.)

Contact Mary Ann Beaudin at 375-5109 or maga@vianet.ca

Sat Aug 9th @ 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 30th @ 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 Aug 31st, rain or shine

Peter Long congratulated the BLA on the Light's Out night. He reminded all of the Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Preserve, just down the road, the other side of Bala, and encouraged everyone to visit. Information may be found at the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada website <<https://www.rasc.ca/content/torrance-barrens-dark-sky-preserve>>. He further encouraged us to push the township for a dark sky bylaw, whereby no uplighting would be allowed in future development.

All were reminded about the pink box for liquor store bottles on the Bass Lake Road. Apparently the Port Carling Lion's club did a similar bottle drive and raised \$10 000. These funds also go to Kelly Shires. Last year, almost \$2 000 was raised. Some noted that they bring their bottles up from the city to donate here.

Enid Wray indicated that her son, who usually helps organise and publicise the Poker Run is unavailable this year. She is looking for a helper... someone who might be able

to take over the Poker Run as she may not be able to do it at all next summer on account of family travel plans. Enid also expressed interest in having additional docks involved and invited people to participate.

- *Subsequent to the meeting itself, Cathy Brydon and Amanda Bramall volunteered their docks. We look forward to their participation in this year's event.*

Comment was made about how spectacular last year's Parade of Lights was. Especially the on shore participation. Everyone is encouraged to dress up their boat and/or their dock once again.

7. General Items of Discussion and New Business

Bubblers. Peter Long stood to address this item.

The BLA has no policy on the issue of bubblers. It is much more an issue on the big lakes, where the amount of open water visible on satellite photos is stunning. There are the obvious safety issues, but there are also environmental issues as the bubblers disturb the lake bottoms.

Peter explained the two main ways in which the ice damages docks. In the first instance, the ice pushes up against the dock, with the potential for crushing it. There is little that can be done about this. Secondly, as runoff elevates the lake level under the ice, the ice is pushed up, lifting the dock with it. This is where a bubbler can be useful by breaking the "seal" between the dock and the ice.

Indeed it is a "gray zone" where no one really wants to tread. An article in Cottage Life apparently went so far as to suggest that someone could be charged with manslaughter should anyone die on account of a bubbled hole in the ice.

Peter spoke about the difficulty with any "rules" around bubblers since there are so many levels of jurisdiction - federal, provincial and municipal - which apply to our waterways... and each is concerned about their own liability issues!

At the end of the day, the Muskoka Lakes Association has been working on developing a set of "best practices" for cottagers to use as guidelines. These best practices boil down to the following:

- use only at the end of the season
- run only at night to control the amount of open water created (added bonus is that the power rates are lower at night!)
- have clear signage
- use an amber or orange light (not a red light... concern it might be mistaken for the taillight of a snowmobile)

Some discussion was had about the amount of snowmobiling on the lake at night, when presumably the open water from bubblers would be most dangerous. Bud Wice noted that since the trail at his end of the lake has been closed, there is little traffic up and down the lake in general, and certainly very little at night.

All were reminded however, that the zone of unsafe ice extends far out from what is visible as open water. The best practice of all is to avoid getting anywhere near any open water, period.

Water safety concerns. Issues relating to boat speeds and shoreline damage were raised.

- Mention was made of “chronic rentals” and a plea to those owners to remind their renters to be courteous and mindful of others on the lake.
- All are reminded to reduce the wake, and to stay the appropriate distance out from shore.
- John Thompson reminded that maximum speed is 9km/h within 100 feet of shore, unless you are pulling up or dropping off a skier
- Everyone is reminded that if you feel that there is a water safety (or other concern) you can always call the OPP to attend.

OPP on the lake. The OPP are maintaining a “diligent commitment” to monitoring boats and boaters. Last summer they are known to have been on the lake three (3) times.

(Reminder from previous year’s minutes... They have been coming onto the lake in unmarked boats, and as late as 11pm. Be sure to have your appropriate safety equipment on board and absolutely no drinking and boating.)

Internet at the lake. The question was asked about internet at the lake. Interactive North was one recommendation. Basically it amount to doing your research, and what works at your specific location. What works for your neighbour may not work for you. Rocks and trees wreak havoc on service.

Municipal Election Year. All were reminded to pay attention and listen to the issues, and what the candidates have to say about them. The closing date for filing to run is September 12th. The Muskoka Ratepayers Association will hold an all candidates meeting on Sat Sept 27th. All are welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

Fire Station. Bud Wice noted that there is planning to consolidate the two existing fire stations at Foot's Bay and Mactier. Depending upon where the "new" station is located, this could have implications for your cottage insurance rates. Bud also noted that there might be insurance savings for some if you notify your insurance company that the local fire service does have a tanker shuttle system.

Bass Lake Restaurant :Boat Ramp. A question was put about the condition of the boat ramp, and whether or not we could put on a load of gravel. It was reminded that the ramp is on private property and that we get the use of it as a courtesy. People were encourage to bring a rake with them when they launch, and to rake the area (before and) after launching their boat.

An additional question was asked about cleaning up the debris from the old dock. Again, this is an issue for the property owner, not really something we have control over. It was reminded that the condition of the old dock is why the BLA did pay to rebuild the little dock.

Bass Lake Restaurant: The Big Tree. Following upon our prior discussions regarding the Light's Out event, the question was asked about the big tree at the BLR. For those who live down that end of the lake, the tree does a great job of pretty much obliterating the night sky. Again it was noted that the restaurant is privately owned and it is a commercial operation. We can't do much about it.

Wildlife. There has been a bear frequenting cottages along the back end of Kendon Road. It has been spotted on two cottage decks (Busch and Wray/Rushby) and has done some damage at Ross Garner's cottage. A bear has also apparently been visiting along Berner's Road. So, be careful when out and about!

Tree Services. The Cooper's have had a pileated woodpecker demo one of their large pine trees. They are looking for recommendations for someone to take the tree down. Jeff MacDonald reminded people about the "Bass Book" feature on the website, where anyone may recommend tradespeople with whom they have had good experiences for the benefit of all.

8. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff McDonald at 11:25am.

Moved: Bud Wice
Seconded: Cathy Brydon

Approved.