

BLA AGM July 21st, 2021

Meeting officially convened @ 7:05 pm

Jeff MacDonald welcomes.

- Apologise for any technical glitches in advance.
- Fingers crossed things go smoothly.

Please also refer to the companion slide deck to accompany these notes.

- [Link here to access the slide deck in PDF format.](#)

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year - July 1st to July 1st

- Dues down slightly last year - but still up at around same level - 60-75%
- Dock Rock success - Mactier Food Bank and Kelly Shires
- Water Testing up - we went it on our own last year - not with the MLA testing programme... and we added some additional testing sites
- Bakery Sales after the fact reflect difference in raised vs dispersed from Dock Rock proceeds.. monies will be going out
- Savings - rainy day fund - not want to have to touch until we really need to

Membership Report

- Need to really push to get the membership up - on account of the water quality issues
- more to come later... we're going to need help - costs associated with our enhanced water testing and possible related to the development of an official [Lake Plan](#)

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JEFF: Need help from everyone to get membership numbers up...
Approx 70 +/- members keeps us covering our costs

Water Quality Report

- MLA - stopped testing last year on account of COVID
- BLA Exec decide that we definitely need to continue testing water after Oct 2019 blue-green algae situation
- We used the same testing lab as MLA - so we have continuity in data

- Maintained our sites - continued testing - consistent results from prior years
- No difference or change in overall testing results - no deviations from trends

- Regardless we had another cyanobacteria outbreak - so we've switched up our sites a little bit for this year
- Testing on long weekends, and also going to test in October this year
- Also testing up some additional sites - different inlet - up by public access near Karantjas cottage (1009 Kendon Road, top end Kendon Bay)
- Also testing closer to the culvert at the highway - along the shoreline, and the other side of the culvert

- Maintaining diligent approach to water testing
- Can't stress enough the importance of watching out for impacting factors

QUESTION: Carrie Freeborough - If we see evidence of algae towards the end of the summer... Can we ask for testing in our part of the lake?

- **Answer:** Yes, no problem... we can sample there also...

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QUESTION: Ellen Rosenbluth - If there are things that people can do... would it be worth sending out a list of what people can do to help limit the causes?

- **Answer:** Check the [Understanding Water Quality](#) webpage for a fairly comprehensive list of products - Ref the section on 'Phosphorous'
- Would be happy to work with a few cottagers - Bev Turney is also interested in this - to put together recommended product list and maybe even see if we could improve sourcing through a local retailer like Gord's Home Hardware in Mactier - would be a win-win for the lake and also help a local business in Mactier
- Contact Enid if interested

Blue-Green Algae (2019/2020)

- The upside is that, sadly, we are not alone - lots of other lakes in the same situation as us
- We have been lucky - have had minor, 'essentially non-toxic' levels, but we can't get complacent
- Always looking to improve best practices... what we put into the lake
 - i.e. Gypsy Moth - people using soap and water to kill them off - Don't get it near the lake!!!!
- [Causation Studies](#) - District of Muskoka initiative
 - [Causation Study FAQ](#)
- We not on the list at present - but...
- Results of studies on these other lakes will likely inform our own situation
- Combination natural processes and human activity

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- Septic is a big piece of the puzzle - any suspicions regarding your septic, don't wait for something bad to happen, or for the testing from the Township
- Water testing - MLA situation - we'd send in the samples and hear nothing until the end of the season
- Now we go directly to the lab and we get the report in a couple of weeks
- Allows us to be much more responsive and focus on specific areas that become apparent during the season
- We are now on the vulnerable list - because we notified re our bloom - waiting for causation study
- Looking for a lake plan - and we need help with it
- Can pay someone but can cost a lot of money - but we know that around the lake there are people with knowledge, and skills and time to help out with putting the lake plan together
- Vulnerable List - positive consequences to being listed
 - Enhanced protection - Learn more about what this means for Bass Lake on the [Understanding Water Quality](#) webpage
- We are doing our best to follow all the best processes we can - but it requires partnership with residents/cottagers to protect water quality

Septic Inspection Programme

- Surveys dropped off to individual residences/cottages
- Please complete and return to Township
- You may have had a discussion with a member of BLA Executive
 - Asking about the septic situation - get our own understanding of situation
 - Not a witch hunt - to make sure all septic systems are compliant
 - To provide/offer education and support where needed

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- We have data to confirm that nutrients are getting into the lake
 - trying to figure out from where
- Many of us think we're doing all the right things - but complicated when systems are only running for 3-4 month per year
 - System sits idle - then has lots thrown at it at once for short period of time - can be hard on the system

The US EPA has a great [primer page on maintaining a healthy septic system](#) - find this and more at the [Understanding Water Quality](#) webpage

Lake Plan

- The BLA Exec contacted both the Township and the District for guidance re blue-green algae situation
- Outcomes include this year's new benthic testing, septic survey, etc...
- Reference the [District of Muskoka's Benthic Monitoring brochure](#)
- Both Township and District are currently undergoing official plan reviews - both have suggested to us that we undertake a formal 'Lake Plan'
- *A lake plan is an approach by a lake association to identify and protect the physical, environmental and social values of a lake or river system. It results in a long range vision for the lake community that can be implemented through a series of stewardship direction and potential land use policies.*
([Muskoka Water Web](#))
- Looking for what the people want to see for their lake community... their vision for their lake

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- Very much a long range vision
- Provides info to people on the lake but also to the Township
- Two examples of local lake plans are:
 - [Leonard Lake](#)
 - [Skeleton Lake](#)
- A Lake Plan is a living document - can be revised and updated... submit to Township and they replace on their end
- Give us a degree of control over what our lake community looks like
- It is about stewardship - taking care of the lake, what we want it to be like, how to maintain the health of the lake, etc.
 - can include boating rules
- Consultants - will charge \$\$\$\$
- Also timing - they backed up - not get to us for two years as many other lakes are also doing the same thing
- We can do it on our own - but to do that we will need volunteers
- We have lots of history, water testing, fish...
- Lots of resources we can pull from, including but not limited to
 - [Muskoka Water Web](#)
 - [Muskoka Watershed Council](#)
- Need a team to take this on... but that will be up to the membership how we approach and what they prepared to offer and/or spend

Election Year

- Can't actually hold a vote like we usually do

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- This Exec has done incredible work - Blue-Green algae, COVID, and more
- All have agreed to stay on for another term

- Jeff - getting long in the tooth in his role - welcome if someone else is interested in taking on his role

Summer Events

See Bass Lake Events page: <http://www.basslakeweb.com/events>

- **Dock Rock** - huge success - and COVID friendly!
 - Great show - raise monies for Kelly Shires
- **Bass Lake Photo Contest** - actually had first official entry just after we got off our AGM meeting
 - Follow along at the [Bass Lake Instagram](#) page
- **Lights Out** - enjoy the dark sky
- **Parade of Lights** - fun time to end the summer
 - decorate your boat, your dock, your shoreline...

General Items

Boating Safety

- this year more active on the lake
- partly due to renters bringing boats and jet skis to the lake
- some are novices, or lack knowledge
- there has been wreckless activity

- we get the calls and e-mails asking us to deal with it
- Exec not have policing authority or jurisdiction
- we have ability to speak to people and educated
- polite gesture and education and 9/10 times it will be well received

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- everybody - please don't hesitate to speak to people
- if anything goes sideways let us know.. and or call the police as the situation warrants
- Trying to put forth a suggestion for where various activities take place
 - Wakesurfing - strongly encourage restrict to the dead centre of the lake
 - have tested - keep to red circle the wakes can be dissipated as best as possible by the time they reach the shore
- Jeff - personal story - boat pulling tube came too close to shore near his place - the tube actually hit the shoreline when they whipped out on the corner - injuries... not pretty

Jet skis

- buzzing boats jumping wake behind way too close
- Bombing of the shoreline - less than 30m off the shore
- In the channels slow down - speed is excessive

Rain

- more than ever experienced before
- water levels have risen dramatically
- Debris - could be coming from shorelines - also seeing wood and styrofoam - can be from weakened docks
- **Please check** your dock - if think at risk with this water level then please address
- If you out on water and see debris - please pick it up - some of the stuff we're finding could lead to a horrific accident

Charcuterie Board

- Silent Auction - Drew Leicester
- LocalLoveMuskoka@gmail.com or on [Instagram](#)

Foot's Bay Fire Station

- Fire Master Plan Review
- Informative session with Pomax Consulting

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- Possible retrofit as EMS

Renters

- COVID has a lot of people craving different scenery than their house
- Looking for a good time - have some excessive energy coming onto the lake

- If renting - or neighbour renting - just need to educate more on boating safety, road safety, fireworks, noise
- Fireworks huge risk when hot and dry...

Massassauga Rattlesnake

- Uptick in sightings recently
- Be cautious - Jeff has had dog bit by one

- See information on [Bass Lake Web Emergency](#) webpage

- Post meeting update: Enid has heard back from her snake expert friend at the [Georgian Bay Biosphere](#)
- She advises that:
 - While there is an element of 'more people, more sightings' it is more than just that
 - Notwithstanding that we had a really hot spring - the weather now that we are in mating season has been cooler and cloudier, so that there is not as much heat stored in the ground or sunshine, hence the snakes are coming out and being more vulnerable and exposed and having to spend more time basking wherever they can to try to capture enough heat to be able to warm up... and to properly gestate their young.

Meeting agenda complete at 7:55pm

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Question and Answer period to follow

Re High Water Levels

Chris B: reiterate high water levels - pulling out large boards... some with nails in them

Enid W: dock foam issues - please check/inspect any rafts or such that use styrofoam for flotation... one or more around the lake are degrading and disintegrating

- Find additional information about dock foam - styrofoam litter - at the [Bass Lake Water Quality](#) webpage

Mike Haworth: Concern around decline of membership - any feedback on that?

- **Jeff:** Mostly memberships come in after the AGM meeting - not seeing people in person is a difficulty
- Also various exec members should be visiting you to update directly - try to reach as many people as we can on a regular basis
- Think we provide good value for the cost of membership
- Strongly asking everyone to help us in this effort - need 70+/- to break even - and if we have costs associated with the Lake Plan

Wendy Peebles: Renters - making sure the garbage bins are latched - specially BLR side of lake

- **Jeff:** Get lots of non-BL people using the bins

Peter Brydon: couple of weeks ago pretty sure it was actually the recycling guys who were dumping garbage

- Called the District - they came out that same day

Wendy Armstrong: How many cottages are on the lake?

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- **Enid:** My best count is that there are 136 cottages/residences on the lake
 - Do not believe that there are any remaining empty lots on the lake - although possible there might be one or two
- **Jeff:** We have more rentals on the lake - very hard to get them to join the association... guesstimating that maybe as many as 40% of cottages are rented some or all of the time these days

Drew Leicester: thanks to Jeff and rest of Exec - appreciate effort you put forward

Rainer Bemann: Other day - saw one of the marinas in the area pulling out 2 jet skis - wondered is there anything that can be done to reduce number of jet skis....

- *...was additional comment/question after this that broke up... Rainer, can you e-mail us your question in full and we'll reply...*

David Brandy: If FB firehall to be EMS - where nearest FH be in that case?

- **Jo-Anne:** Put one this side of Glen Orchard - little further for us, but not sure... as soon as we know, we'll let you know
- **Jeff:** strictly assessment being conducted... bring to attention
- **Enid:** can send note to councillor anytime to express concerns about possible closure

Mike Haworth: Water quality - are there a lot of cottagers who drink the water?

- **Chris T:** not an issue - testing, Blue-green algae, shown to be non-toxic - fine to drink, but having said that... there are people who do not have a filter system... still drink bottled water
 - Mactier (arena) and Port Carling (Municipal Offices) public taps
 - lots of places to get drinking water
 - Blue-green algae - if toxic boiling not do any good anyway

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- **Chris B** - water not toxic, have very good water treatment system, micron filter, UV light, charcoal filter
- **Jon Sykes** - most cottager treatment systems have two parts - filtration and UV
 - remove sediment and kill pathogens
 - need replace on regular basis even if not using all the time
 - get regular tap testing - in Gravenhurst
 - UV not remove any dissolved constituents from the water - just knocks out e-coli
- **Chris T:** taste preference
- **Enid W:** Sample bottles - available at Mactier Library... but we could have 'depots' on each road with sample bottles
 - Is anyone willing to keep a stash that people could 'shop' from when they need one?
 - Or just be a distribution point if we get a bunch in bulk?

Genny Keating - gypsy moths scare dissipating - there are fewer short life span - brown moths male, females white not fly - but they climb up trees and lay eggs

- **Chris T:** Spending time scraping egg sacs - soaking in soapy water for a day or two and dispose of - not in the lake!



Cindy Baker: top end of lake Kendon Road - starting to see change in the water this past weekend... is there testing being done next weekend?

- **Chris T:** trying to target testing areas - not every week - every month on average
- very shallow - notice some gobs of stuff - can take a look

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Mike Haworth: monster pike - are there more? do we re-stock the lake?

- **Enid:** Sadly no... did once many many years ago... fish in lake have changed over time... 40 years ago you could put a bar hook in the lake and sit and pull rock bass all day - even a derby to see who pulled the most out of the lake

Wendy Armstrong - map of rattlesnake sitings?

- **Enid:** Yes, will make one and share... will share via Bass Lake Update and post on website

Charles Jennings (Parker's son) - spores in the water ... later in the summer... little hard prickly's in the water -

- **Jo-Anne:** That sensation is [Spiny water flea](#)
- **Enid:** I got ahead of myself and mis-spoke at meeting - Jo-Anne correct... hard prickly's are spiny water flea... but be aware that we also have [freshwater jellyfish](#)... You can - I have - see(n) them floating in the water when the light is 'just right' and you get the right angle for observation
- Refer to [EDD Maps](#), as reference in link above re freshwater jellyfish
 - While Bass Lake not specifically identified as having confirmed presence of freshwater jellyfish
 - There is a record of confirmed spiny water flea as far back as December 2006
- *Identification of these kinds of aquatic life will be part of the results of the Districts Benthic monitoring programme*

David Brandy: how many rentals?

- **Jeff:** speculate that rentals north of 40% on the lake now... Exec is asking questions - including whether rented? and septic info?
 - Finishing the survey - once completed we can answer that question better

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- **DB supplemental:** if can determine - is there a handout we can provide to owners? who is renting?
- **Jeff:** so much education we can do... if happen to have neighbour is a renter...
- **Enid:** Some resources on the [Bass Lake Downloads](#) webpage
 - I put together a binder of info when friends stayed at our place cat sitting for us a couple of years ago... I could edit it and put together a fairly comprehensive best practices document

8:26pm

- JEFF thank everyone - please e-mail us... watch for Bass Lake updates
- Enid will post minutes on website and you can review again

See everyone at Dock Rock

Supplemental - Concern conveyed via e-mail after the AGM

Mark Tulloch: Sorry I missed the meeting.

- The only comments that I may have made at the meeting is that we're noticing a distinct change in how fast people are coming down Hallett's Rd.
- I'm terrified frankly that someone is going to get hurt.
- The crest of the hill at my neighbour's property makes it difficult to see anybody past it and I'm thinking it's just going to be a matter of time before there is a tragedy.