



BLACK STURGEON LAKE NEWS

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New BSLPOA Executive



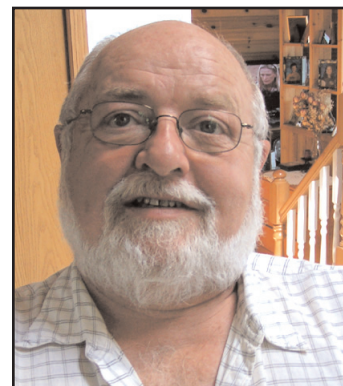
Jim Quinn
President



Past President
Dan Olscamp



Vice President
Tino Brambilla



Vice President
Steve Garrett



Secretary
Phil Burns



Treasurer
Donna Albak



Membership Director
Anita Shrier



Newsletter
Frank Hink

President's Message

It's that time of the year again, where boats have to be winterized, docks set up for the winter, heat lines attached, and so on. Some of us shut down for the winter, some of us head south for the winter and some of us stay at the lake. No matter what you do, your new BSLPOA Executive wishes you a safe and happy winter.

As I am sure you all know by now, the association will continue for the foreseeable future. During the meetings at the Super 8 in June, followed by the AGM in August, our president Dan Olscamp asked for members to step forward and take up positions on the executive. Dan was successful in his requests and our new Executive is as follows:



President – Jim Quinn
V.P. – Tino Brambilla
2nd V.P. – Steve Garrett
Sec. – Phil Burns
Membership – Anita Shrier
Treas. – Donna Albek

Our new executive consists of members from Peterson Rd, Ritchie Rd, Worona Rd, and Bruckenberger Rd. It is nice to have representation from several areas of the lake and we will try to deal with needs and concerns for the lake as a whole. We will continue to deal with specific individual issues, but going forward we will be establishing reps for each area/road, who in turn will bring concerns to the executive to be discussed at our meetings and possibly the AGM.

This new executive will have it's challenges. Reviewing and updating our constitution, dealing with the City of Kenora, dealing with MNR on Thatcher Rd, and whatever else comes up. In closing, I would like to thank each and every one who stepped up to volunteer for the executive and make this association a success.



Past President's Message

"Your Choice..."

The BSLPOA has a new executive. I'd like to thank Jim, Phil, Anita, Steve, Tino and Donna for stepping forward to help the BSLPOA live on and continue the tradition of proactive lake stewardship. Please wish them well and give them your support in any way you can. It is my hope that the residents will continue to stay involved or get involved as the case may be. You have a choice. To

acquiesce or to take an interest. We have often heard complaints and/or concerns on one issue or another. "Someone should do something" is a common refrain.

Sitting on a committee, volunteering for the executive at election time, holding an event, going to a Planning or Council meeting, talking to a neighbour, writing a letter, emailing the Mayor or Council, organizing a petition, taking a water quality sample, cleaning up litter, reporting a fire or a rogue bear, slowing down on the roads, waving once in awhile. It doesn't take a whole lot to show you care. Why wait for someone else to do something. How about you helping out.

Some concerns from this year come to mind. This summer some residents have been throwing their grass clippings into the lake. Lots of garbage has been left outside the garbage shack to rot and wait for the city workers to take it away. Speeding is commonplace on the roads. Lots of bigger boats are coming closer to your dock, making huge wakes while your grandchildren swim close by. The algae blooms are becoming more prevalent and what are those streams of foam floating on the lake anyway? Some folks are building their mansions almost in the water and others are filling in the lake with their loads of sand and gravel. Some folks are verbalizing their objections and think the BSLPOA should just butt out.

When you go around this lake in your boat you can see that it is not too late. Black Sturgeon continues to be a beautiful waterway. It can be for generations to come. It is fine that we are all busy and have lives to live and just don't have the time to be involved. Agreed. But... to be proactive at least may give you the satisfaction that you tried to make a difference. Rather than being reactive down the road.

The City of Kenora, of which we are a part, has turned down many of our initiatives these past few years. But they know we are here and there have been some concessions. The only way they will continue to at least listen is if we continue to lobby for healthy development planning. It is apparent when you get involved in municipal politics that it does matter who you are and who you know. At our information meeting and AGM this summer it was apparent that we do have residents on BSL who care. There are some who have a lot of history in Kenora and with experience in the political arena. If we can join forces, long-term residents and newcomers alike, then we can become a lobby group to be reckoned with. Sometimes who and how many you represent can trump the old boys network of cronyism. BSLPOA exists to help protect the health of the watershed and surrounding natural environment. Your participation will ensure the success of those efforts.

So there you have it. It has been a pleasure serving as your president for the past few years.

Dan Olscamp

Ritchie Road Report

submitted by Steve Garrett

Summer is almost a fleeting memory and Fall is already upon as everyone is busy winterizing boats and cottages. The new Executive for the BSPOA conducted their first meeting and is already working on the development of an action plan for the coming year.



The Ritchie Road underwent a hacking and slashing by the City Roads department in the Spring that left debris, 3 foot broken stumps and about 10-20 feet of tree shrapnel on both sides of the road. It's an unsightly and dangerous mess. Complaints to the City went unanswered. Our request again to have the city complete its commitment in 2008 to hard surface our 5 km road at 1 km a year, have gone unanswered. Instead, they re-surfaced the first 1 km of the paltry 1.5 km they have completed since 2008. These are our visible city services.

Three properties for sale in our small south Subdivision are experiencing little action. One of the Properties is a carry-over from last year. It's my understanding that not many lots in new Subdivisions have sold either. I wonder if it's the economy causing the slow down in the local real estate market or the excessive annual tax increases we'll see over the next few years as a result of reassessment combined with annual mill rate increases.

My wife, Cathy, spoke this summer with M. Shaw, Tax Collector with the Kenora Tax Department about our own taxes and the excessive pending increases. Shaw advised my wife that while they have heard a lot of talk about reassessment and substantial tax increases, few people were submitting written complaints for the City to address. She indicated the City might look at conducting a "study" of the reassessments. If this is a situation that is impacting you, I would suggest that in addition to our own Executive's correspondence, a letter to the City from many individuals sharing their concerns would draw attention and hopefully action.

City of Kenora
Att: Mayor & Council
1 Main St. S., Kenora, Ont. P9N 3X2

Have a great Fall and Winter!

Membership Report

The BSLPOA has grown considerably this season... from 89 members last season to 130 this season. We would like to extend a hearty welcome to all our new members and hope to see those numbers grow even more, as news of our work for Black Sturgeon Lakes spreads.



NOTE: We currently have 28 members with membership dues still unpaid. For those of you who have not submitted your membership dues for the 2013/2014 season please note that your membership expired as of the end of MAY 2013. The annual membership fee of \$20 can be mailed to BSLPOA, c/o Anita Shrier, 370 Bruckenberg Rd, Kenora, ON, P9N 0E3. If you are unsure you may contact me at 807-548-4047.

The BSLPOA is only as good as the people involved. We are fortunate to have a great group of volunteers, who like you, have personal commitments and busy schedules. But despite that, they still find a little time to devote to the association and its members. We sincerely thank them. If you are interested in joining our efforts, please consider volunteering in some capacity with a few hours of your time, to help in whatever way you can.

Area Reps needed

As our membership grows we are relying on Area Reps for some assistance. An Area Rep is responsible for a small number of residents in their own home area. They are the eyes and ears for their area and someone the residents can go to with their concerns. Area reps will be also be contacted for assistance early in the season for their assistance with collection of membership fees from their area. Following are the Area Reps we have currently and the vacancies that exist. If you are interested in getting to know your neighbours a little more, and have a few hours to spare, we could use your help! Please email me at bslpoa@gmail.com or call me at 807-548-4047. Your efforts would be very much appreciated.

Worona/Mineault- Tedd Evans
Bruckenberg Rd- Ken Shrier
Peterson Rd from Lenaghans to end- Hardy Bock
Peterson Rd from Sunrise to Lenaghans- VACANT
Sunset/Lakeview- Bruce Wiseman
Sunrise Tr- Jim Quinn
Peterson Rd to Meadow Tr. and Meadow Tr- Marcia Karp
Hill Top Trail- Dan Olscamp
Peterson Rd from Meadow Tr. to Sunrise- VACANT
Scurfield Area- Norm Sukkau
Black Sturgeon South- Steve Garrett
James Road- VACANT

The Black Sturgeon Lakes area is large, and though we try to reach all the residents in whatever way we can, we rely heavily on our email list. If you know of any neighbours or residents in your area that might be unaware of our association and its efforts, please consider giving them a copy of our newsletter and tell them about us. We would be pleased to welcome them to our membership.

The BSLPOA executive wishes all the full-time and seasonal residents of Black Sturgeon a restful, but invigorating fall and winter.

Warm regards, Anita Shrier - Membership

Living with Wolves

From the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Wolves are found throughout northern Ontario. They are an important part of our ecosystem and contribute to Ontario's rich biodiversity. The presence of wolves is a good indication that our natural spaces are healthy.

Wolves are shy and generally avoid humans. However, wolves are social animals: they not only hunt in packs or groups but live most of their lives with other wolves. Wolf packs will reuse den sites over multiple years. The pack bond is strongest during winter, when the wolves travel and hunt together. In summer, when the pups are young, the adults seldom go on long forays. They may hunt together occasionally after meeting at the den or home site where the pups are being cared for.

Natural prey for wolves includes moose, deer, elk, caribou and beaver. Wolves are territorial. Each pack occupies an area that it will defend against intruders. Sizes of territories vary greatly depending on the kind and abundance of prey available. When neighbouring packs trespass into each other's territories, fights often ensue that frequently result in the death of pack members.



Conflicts happen

Wolves sometimes find their way to residential areas, where they may come into conflict with pets, disturb garbage, and cause concern for residents.

Please keep in mind...

Wild animals have the same basic needs as humans - food, water and shelter. Sometimes, humans and wild creatures come into conflict when animals are trying to meet their basic needs. Often, conflicts can be prevented if we're willing to make small changes to how we think and act. People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. We all share responsibility for preventing and handling human-wildlife conflicts. If you must take action against wildlife, please consider all your options and follow all relevant laws and regulations.

How Can I Prevent Conflicts?

Limit food sources

- Never feed wolves.
- Keep pet food indoors.
- Secure garbage in durable plastic containers with locking lids.
- Store garbage indoors until collection day.

- Keep compost in containers that keep wolves out while allowing for ventilation.
- Avoid adding dog or cat waste, or meat, milk or eggs to composters.
- Do not feed wildlife, such as deer, to prevent attracting wolves to your property; remove deer food and salt blocks.

Make your property unwelcoming

- Prune bushes and clean up brush piles.
- Eliminate small mammal habitat (rock piles, wood or debris).
- Use flashing lights, motion sensors and noise makers to deter wolves.
- Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds.

How Can I Handle a Conflict?

If you encounter a wolf

- Never approach or touch a wolf.
- Never attempt to "tame" a wolf.
- Do not turn your back on, or run from, a wolf. Back away from the animal while remaining calm.
- Stand tall, wave your hands and make lots of noise.
- Use whistles and personal alarm devices to frighten an approaching or threatening animal.
- Carry a flashlight at night to scare off wolves.
- Do not let dogs chase a wolf. Chasing wolves could result in injuries to your pet. Lethal action is a last resort
- A landowner may humanely kill or trap wolves that are damaging or about to damage their property. Firearm regulations and bylaws must be followed.
- Landowners in central and northern Ontario must report wolves killed in protection of property to their local Ministry of Natural Resources office.

To learn more about wolves, including how to deal with wolf problems, call Norm Hissa at the Ministry of Natural Resources Kenora District office at 807-468-2560.

Lake Partners Program

Water quality is something many people take for granted and this is a tremendous mistake. It is important to keep a sharp eye out for damage to our lake's water, whether it comes from improper shoreline development, septic system breakdowns or industrial pollution. To help monitor water quality, the province of Ontario has set up the Lake Partners Program.

The Lake Partners Program is a volunteer based water quality monitoring program run by the Province of Ontario and it encompasses over 600 lakes in the province. Volunteers are tasked to collect phosphorous samples and to take monthly water clarity observations on their lakes. This information will allow for the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lake due to the impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses. As the City of Kenora has refused to continue its water study of Black Sturgeon Lake, it is incumbent on us to be able to provide some scientific statistics regarding water quality on the lake. This information could be of benefit to the association in the event of further development proposals on the lake, where the shorelines have been incorrectly developed or pollution is present.

Volunteer sampling of Lower and Upper Black Sturgeon has taken place in the past, so there are some baseline stats available. The key is for residents to restart and continue the sampling going for-

ward. For a lake the size of Black Sturgeon there should be 6 sample spots; 3 on Upper Black Sturgeon and 3 on Lower Black Sturgeon. Currently, one person is monitoring Upper Black Sturgeon. Three other folks have volunteered, so the Lake needs two more volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering please email the association at bslpoa@gmail.com For further info on the program you can head to the Lake Partners website @ www.ontario.ca/

Sailing Lessons 2014

Once again, sailing lessons were organized this past July and there was a great turnout of kids and adults with a total of 29 people signed up for the weekend courses. Lessons for next season are being considered and feedback on interest would be greatly appreciated. Please let Phil Burns know if you are interested @ ipburns@shaw.ca

Trash Talk

Reduce - the amount of waste we produce

Reuse - an item or give it to someone else to use

Recycle - all recyclable materials

Repair - items whenever possible

RECYCLOPEDIA is a website designed to help residents find alternatives for items that would normally go into the local Landfill. When visiting the website, you can quickly and easily find the information you need to safely dispose of things such as: batteries, bicycles, car batteries, computers, cooking oil, electronics, fluorescent lights, fridges, books, metal, plastic bags, propane tanks, tires, treated wood, used toner cartridges, windows and more.

Please visit the Recyclopedica website at <http://recyclopedica.net>

Electronics

Did you know?? You can now bring old electronic items up to the Transfer Station free of charge during regular operating hours. Acceptable items include: computers, peripherals (keyboards, mice etc) printers, telephones, answering machines, cell phones and pagers, stereo equipment, image and audio video devices (VCRs etc), vehicle audio and video devices, speakers. Although there is no charge to drop off these items, please stop in to the office to advise what you have and they will tell you where to put it.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of Kenora encourages residents to recycle their Christmas trees. For the month of January you may deposit your Christmas tree at the Transfer Facility located at 401 Mellick Avenue during regular operating hours. During this period regular tipping fees are waived and your Christmas trees are accepted free of charge. The Christmas trees are then chipped on site and are available for residents to utilize for landscaping purposes at no charge. To assist in the chipping of your Christmas tree, you are required to remove any plastic bags or ornaments prior to leaving it at the Transfer Facility.

Hazardous Waste

The Annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event provides residents with the

opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous materials. The event is held at the Kenora Transfer Facility located at 401 Mellick Avenue. The event is usually scheduled for a Sunday in mid August. Please check out our newsletter in the spring for the date.

Only Residential household hazardous wastes are accepted. These are defined as wastes that are: reactive, flammable, corrosive, poisonous and otherwise potentially dangerous materials such as fuel, antifreeze, hobby chemicals, cleansers, paints, oils, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, butane, aerosol cans, batteries, mercury thermometers, pharmaceuticals, makeup and sharps. All items must be carefully packed and clearly labeled. Sharps must be placed in a plastic container with a lid, i.e. peanut butter container. The event is for residential customers only.

With the exception of our annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, no hazardous wastes are allowed to be brought to the Transfer Facility.

Bag Tags

Just a reminder, that City of Kenora Garbage Bag Tags can be purchased for a fee of \$2.00 each or in sheets of 10 for \$20.00. These are available for purchase at City Hall (One Main Street South) or at the Kenora Transfer Facility (401 Mellick Avenue) or online at the City of Kenora E-Store. Each tag must be placed around the neck of the bag with the two tag ends attached to each other. Garbage bags that have a bag tag around the neck of the bag that has been cut in half will be left behind by waste collection staff.

City of Kenora Numbers

A lot of residents are frustrated and angry when they see obvious breaches to development on the lake, bylaws not being enforced, road conditions etc. Some don't know what they can do or who they can call. We definitely need to voice our complaints to the right person. Here is a short list for you to keep handy:

Chief Building Official - Kevin Robertson
phone: (807) 467-2022 email:
krobertson@kenora.ca

Planning Administrator - Tara Rickaby
phone: (807) 467-2059 email:
trickaby@kenora.ca

Supervisor - Rob Halverson phone: (807)
467-2247 email: halverson@kenora.ca

Solid Waste Supervisor - Mukesh Pokharel
phone: (807) 467-2990 email:
mpokharel@kenora.ca

Mayor Dave Canfield phone: (807) 467-2018 Cell: (807) 468-1115 email: dcanfield@kenora.ca



This information is also available on the City of Kenora website at
<http://www.kenora.ca/cityhall/city-admin>

An Invitation from Lake of the Woods

Hello members.

The following is a letter from Susan McLeod, the Executive Director from the Lake of the Woods District Property Association. This is intended for anyone who may be interested in joining their association. Membership also includes a subscription to their magazine. If you are interested in joining you can visit their website at <http://www.lowdpoa.com> for more information.

Why should I join LOWDPOA?

Do you love the lake? Do you love lake life? Do your children love the lake? Do you live and work in lake country?

Then you should join LOWDPOA; the only group in the watershed specifically focused on representing the interests of members who share a common passion for lake life. 'Lake life' includes issues related to property values, taxation, land use and development, our communities, environmental impacts such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and ensuring our overall enjoying of our surroundings.

With 1 1/2 staff members, 16 directors and close to 4000 members, we are the largest association of its kind in the province of Ontario; a powerful force in Northwestern Ontario and beyond.

We are not limited to waterfront property owners and we are not limited to Lake of the Woods. Our membership includes part time and permanent residents, as well as those who simply have a keen interest in protecting this beautiful area for generations to come. Members live in the area or may come from around the world to spend time at their special place in the Lake of the Woods District that spans from the Manitoba Border to Vermilion Bay, well north into the smaller lakes and down to the US border.

We can act on member interests with our collective voice or empower individuals to enable them to better represent their own interests. We are your eyes and ears; plugged into what's happening in the area as it relates to member concerns and keeping you informed.

Benefits of LOWDPOA Membership - We're much more than a magazine subscription

Solidarity: Speaking with a collective voice we advocate on topics such as land use planning, taxation and environmental concerns.

As the representative of an important constituency in the watershed, LOWDPOA is invited to actively participate in a wide range of area initiatives including:

- o International Joint Commission's Citizen's Advisory Committee,
- o Ministry of Natural Resources citizens' forestry planning committee
- o City of Kenora Environmental Advisory Committee
- o Area Zone fishing regulation review committees
- o City of Kenora Water Resources Centre working committee
- o Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association Board of Directors & Land Use Planning Committee
- o Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation Nominating Committee
- o Provided input and review of the Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls Zoning by-law
- o Lake of the Woods Water Control Board citizens committee
- o City of Kenora Tourism Re-branding project
- o Clearwater Bay Restricted Area Order Appeals Board

In 2009, we led a campaign against the new process of using market value property assessments to value provincial tax levels.

In 2012 we fought (and will continue to fight) to save the Experimental Lakes Area. That same year we let the provincial government know how disappointed we were about the loss of the LOW Coordinator in the local Ministry of the Environment office.

In 2010 we successfully fought to ensure that seasonal residents had an opportunity to comment and offer input into the route planning for the twinning of highway 17 between the Manitoba border and the City of Kenora.

Information and Resources: LOWDPOA provides education opportunities on topics of interest to members via the LakeSmart program, seminars, website, facebook page, Lake of the Woods Area News magazine and the LOWDKids website.

Tree seedling and potted tree programs: This members-only program has planted more than 300,000 trees of various species, ensuring the sustainability of our local forests.

Annual Lake of the Woods Cottage Show: where you can find all you'll need for lake living under one roof

Member communication - Keeping you in the know

- o Lake of the Woods Area News Magazine: 5 issues of the most informative & entertaining read focused on lake life in the watershed.
- o LOWDPOA Website: a valuable source of information related to LOWDPOA and the lake life we share. Here you will find not only timely notices and updates, but everything you need to know about topics like septic tanks, healthy shorelines, sustainable building, wildlife and water quality, to name just a few.
- o LOWDKids Website: An extension of our main website to help educate the next generation and get them excited about caring for their lake environment.
- o Timely eNews email blasts: When there is an issue or event that we know you'll be interested in, we'll let you know via our new email blast service.
- o LOWDPOA on facebook: Another way to stay in touch and communicate with us - or other LOWDPOA members. Here you'll also find timely information on lake related issues and events.

Share your opinions, favourite photos and join the LOWDPOA community.

- o Pick up the phone or send us an email: If Susan or Dawn can't answer your questions, they will find someone who will.

Members are our best ambassadors so the next time someone asks you why they should join LOWDPOA, we hope you'll be ready with the answer. Remember as we look to the future; there is strength in numbers so please help keep LOWDPOA the same strong and active association it's been over the past 50 years.

Thank you for your ongoing support.