



BSLPOA NEWSLETTER FALL 2024



President's Message By George Turpie

Another summer has come and gone. I hope you all had a great summer as we did. As well as being in the lake every day this summer, I learned about the Kenora Pickleball club and attended in September - it was great fun at Garrow Park.

Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owner's Association was busy as well over the summer. We held the AGM for the group on June 22. At that meeting, we heard from Kyle Attanasio - Chief Administrative Officer, City of Kenora. Kyle spoke to us about some of the challenges in maintain roads and expressed an openness to continued discussions with BSLPOA. In addition, we heard from Scott McDonald – a wildlife officer with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He spoke to us about living in areas alongside bears, tips to be bear smart, and provided information about what to do if you encounter a bear. It was good timing as I know many of us, including me, had a bear attempt to enter our cottage, or in our case our garage. We think our dogs scared them off.

We have also continued our work with the City, and Transport Canada, with respect to the development of the water aerodrome along Peterson Rd. Our goal is to ensure that development is consistent with regulations and city bylaws, and doesn't present safety risks to residents.

Some great news this year as the City of Kenora contributed \$40,000 to Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association for the purpose of maintaining the Thatcher Rd boat launch and the rollers connecting Black Sturgeon Lake to the Winnipeg River. We put a portion of those funds to work in August to improve the road to the boat launch. I've been down a few times since then and the work was incredible. The road was smooth and plenty of passing zones which reduce the risk of having to back up to get past oncoming traffic. Early September a group of volunteers joined us to remove brush and growth around the road further improving the conditions. Thank you everyone for your help that day.

I want to also take the chance to thank all of the volunteers on the executive committee and other committees of BSLPOA – I know you all have lots to do and your time contribution is much appreciated. Thank you also to our members for your contributions.

As I am writing this – I can feel the cool weather signaling that winter is on its way. It's time for us to prepare for winter, winterize boats and docks, in some cases empty water lines and look forward to next summer – but for many winter is something to look forward to. I know we'll see lots of snowmobiles on the lake and I look forward to cross country skiing and hopefully another Black Sturgeon Lake Curling Bonspiel in February.

George



Ritchie Road/ Lawton Drive

We had our local subdivision Annual Meeting and Pot Luck dinner on July 20, 2024 at Roy and Doreen Houston's place.

It was well attended with two new families. It was also goodbye to the Pitres who have moved to Calgary.

The issues discussed were the water Aerodrome and funding of the improvements to Thatcher Road and the Rollers.

This year we have also had bear issues.

There were no changes to our executive but we will be looking for new people next year.

Water levels have returned to normal. Some members expressed concern about shoreline erosion from boat and watercraft wakes. Reminders were sent to members about boat safety near swimmers.

Our association was formed in 1989 and continues to be a voice for our area.



Hello Black Sturgeon Lake lovers!

BSLPOA has 150 members. Last year a new system of registering and paying dues was set up. Most members have adopted this system, but there are a few hold-outs. The system is secure, easy to use, does not require setting up an account and password, and allows users to update contact info and check paid status. We are still keeping records of those members who have paid years in advance on the old system.

On August 31, 2024 and email was sent to members who have not yet paid their dues for 2024. If you received an email, you have not yet paid. If you did not receive an email in August, then you are paid for 2024.

To register and pay dues, please use this link.

<https://blacksturgeonlakepropertyownersassociation.checklick.com>

Thank you, Patti Sutherland



Thatcher Road Update!

Hello Association members,

Some of you may have seen the awesome work Jonathan Neniska and his coworkers from Joe Neniska and Sons have done on Thatcher road. New gravel, asphalt, crowning and ditching has brought the road back to life. Now it's our turn to clear the brush from the ditches.

On a Saturday morning a bunch of folks showed up with their weed whackers, brush saws, loppers and saws. Trailers and quads were there too!!

The crew worked their way up the ditches on both sides of the road starting at the launch, clearing out brush and tall weeds.

Afterwards, a BBQ of hot dogs, hamburgers, water and soft drinks were served at the launch! A good time was had by all.

Also a dock is now in situ at the boat launch, graciously donated by one of our BSLPOA members!

This road work was made possible by a grant from the City of Kenora in the amount of \$40,000. It will be used for the Boat Launch and Rollers upkeep. The grant money came from the Municipal Accommodation Tax fund which is a tax on room rentals within the city of Kenora's, meaning it had no impact on our personal property income tax!

Please check out the pics below!!



Thatcher Road Looking Smooth!!



Thatcher Road looking Good!!



PILES OF BRUSH WERE CREATED!!



THE 2024 THATCHER ROAD WORK CREW!!

Kenora News Article on Thatcher Road

Kenora News – Enhancing Lake Access to Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association

The City is pleased to announce a significant contribution from the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) to the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association (BSLPOA). In a recent gathering, Mayor Poirier and Councillor Barb Manson presented a financial contribution of \$40,000 aimed at enhancing local tourism and access to some of our region's beautiful waterways.

The MAT, which is collected on short-term accommodations within the City of Kenora, generates valuable revenue that is shared with the Kenora Hospitality Alliance. These MAT funds, which do not impact local municipal taxes, are assigned to initiatives that promote local tourism and support economic development strategies across the community.

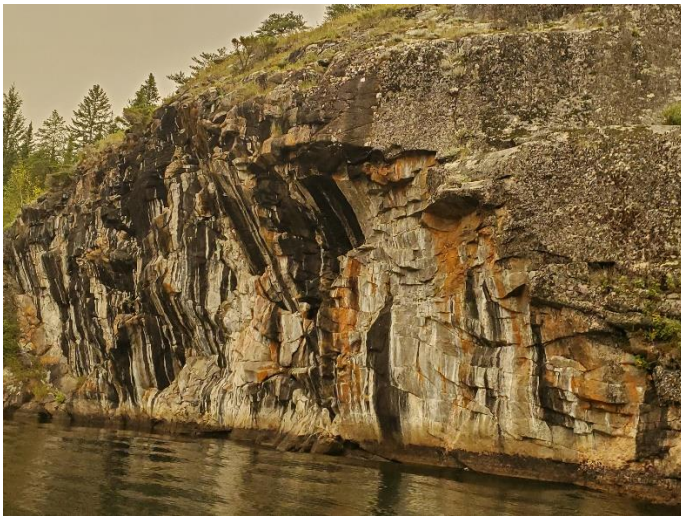
The allocated funds to the BSLPOA will be used to carry out essential upgrades at Thatcher's Landing and the Black Sturgeon rollers, which are crucial access points to Black Sturgeon Lake and the Winnipeg River. Planned improvements include ditch brushing, deadfall removal, area grading, and culvert installation at Thatcher's Landing. The rollers will also see repairs and rebuilding of bearings, infrastructure replacements, and decking repairs.

Phil Burns, Past President of the BSLPOA, shared his appreciation, "Our lake community is truly grateful to City Council for this grant. It will significantly enhance access to Black Sturgeon Lake at Thatcher Road and the rollers leading to the Winnipeg River. This funding will help us improve the quality and longevity of these key access points."

The MAT is crucial in supporting tourism and economic development projects within Kenora. This contribution is a key element of the City's Strategic Plan and the Five-Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, which focuses on enhancing lake access and boating infrastructure to the benefit of both residents and visitors.

Mayor Poirier expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, stating, "It's exciting to see how the MAT is making a tangible impact in our community. This contribution aligns perfectly with our Strategic Plan to enhance waterfront and lake access. This project reflects our commitment to making our natural assets more accessible and enjoyable for everyone."

Photo Contest Resurrection



We are happy to announce the resumption of the BSLPOA photo contest. Submissions will be accepted from now until December 31st, 2024. Winners will be announced in March of 2025. In past, we had a professional photographer judge the awards which we will do again.

Rules – up to 3 photo submissions per family only – as in past, we will add the photos to the www.blacksturgeonlakepoa.com website as they come in. (photos of past years are still there)

The family must be a paid-up member of the Association

Pictures should be taken at Black Sturgeon Lakes during any time of the year. Check the archived photos for ideas.

1st prize \$150

2nd prize \$125

3rd prize \$100

Honourable mention \$50

Fishing Report!!

By Rob Mazur

Summer of 2024 was a great summer for fishing on Black Sturgeon Lake and the Winnipeg River. I was fortunate enough to have a spouse that was happy to relax at the cottage while I was out fishing for the day! The the variety of species that a fisherman can catch on the lake and Winnipeg River system is quite varied! Everything from Walleye, Perch, Jack, Smallmouth and Large Mouth Bass and Sauger were caught!

Since making the effort to spend more time on the lake fishing I will say I am most thankful for the roller system that is in place, connecting our gorgeous lake to the Winnipeg river system. Without it getting onto the river would be very time consuming with having to load and unload a boat from the trailer! I have added a couple pics for your viewing pleasure. Please note all of these fish were caught and released live!!



For any feedback or ideas to add into the newsletter (This is my first one I am sending out, so am new to all of this!!) Please email me at robmazur@shaw.ca with the subject being "BSLPOA Newsletter"

Thanks everyone and see you out on the lake this winter either on a snowmobile, cross country skis, walking or at George Turpie's Black Sturgeon Lake Curling Bonspiel in February.