



President's Message – Spring 2025

Dear Black Sturgeon Lake Community,

As the ice melts and the days grow longer, it's clear that summer is just around the corner. I know many of us are looking forward to getting outdoors, reconnecting with friends and family, and enjoying everything that life at the lake has to offer. There's nothing quite like the peace and beauty of Black Sturgeon Lake this time of year!

It has been a busy and productive time for the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association (BSLPOA). Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the support of the City of Kenora, we successfully secured funding to make much-needed improvements to the Thatcher Road boat launch and to refresh the rollers leading to the Winnipeg River. These upgrades will make accessing the water easier and safer for everyone.

Last year, we hosted our 2024 Annual General Meeting, featuring a guest speaker from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The presentation on living safely alongside bears was very informative and well-received — an important topic for all of us living in bear country. Beyond the AGM, the Association has continued to work closely with the City of Kenora on issues that matter to our lake community, and we are grateful for their ongoing collaboration.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars! The 2025 AGM will be held on **Saturday June 21, 2025**. **More details will be shared closer to the date. We are working to secure a couple of informative guest speakers and hope to see you there.**

I'd also like to take a moment to thank those who have already paid their dues for 2025. Your support is essential in allowing us to continue our work. For those who haven't yet, we encourage you to do so — information on how to pay can be found later in this newsletter.

On a lighter note, I've really enjoyed seeing the incredible photos submitted so far for our BSLPOA Photo Contest! There's still time to enter, so if you have a favorite shot of life on or around the lake, please consider sharing it with us.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers — your time and energy make such a difference. If you're interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you! You can connect with us at the AGM or anytime by emailing bslpoa@gmail.com.

Wishing you a safe, sunny, and relaxing start to the season.

Warm regards,
George Turpie
President, BSLPOA



Vice President's Message

By Roy Houston

The area of Ritchie Road and Lawton Drive has been appreciating Spring. The ice went out May 3, 2025 which is later than usual. We usually count on April 23. The loons are back and soon we will be getting our boats into the lake. Last year we welcomed two new families to our subdivision, the Daley's and the Cosentino's.

This year we have experienced illegal dumping of garbage along Ritchie Road. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer was contacted and over 300 pounds was removed. This spring we learned of the passing of four former owners in our subdivision: Bob Firth, Colin Foster, Gord Tompkin and John Heivilin. Our sympathies go out to all the families.

We have changed the lock on our garbage enclosure to ensure that only members use it. We plan our annual meeting and Pot Luck Dinner for July 26, 2025. It was good to see the improvements to Thatcher Drive for the boat launch, and we will have volunteers for this year's work.



BSLPOA Membership Report

Hello Black Sturgeon Lake lovers!

BSLPOA has an online system of registering and paying dues, most members have adopted this system, but there are a few hold-outs. This 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 hoping to have all members switch over to this system to streamline our records. For those of you that have paid for several years in advance we have kept a separate tracking system for this.

Black Sturgeon 2025 membership fees are due! Fees are \$25 for the year and can be paid online at:

[Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association](#)

(Hold CTRL and Left click to go to the membership page!!)



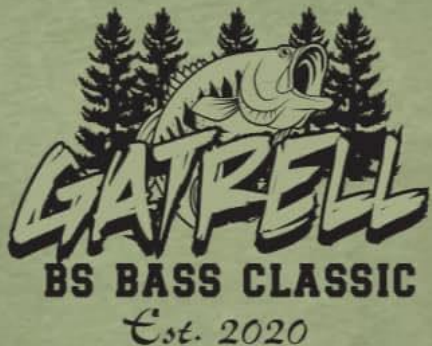
Thatcher Road Update!

Thatcher Road has held up well with the improvements of gravel and recycled asphalt that was put down last year. This year will see us continue to maintain and improve Thatcher Road. Once summer is in full swing and we know we can drum up another fantastic work crew, a date will be set, and the call will go out to volunteers to help continue to clear more brush from ditches and improve the drainage along the road! Stay Tuned!!



Black Sturgeon Fun Facts:

The largest fish caught in Black Sturgeon Lake was in 2005 by Cam Coleman, a Manitoba angler. It was a 2-meter sturgeon that took him 90 minutes to reel in! It was estimated that the sturgeon was over 100 years old and weighed nearly 200 lbs.



Interested in a bit of competitive fishing? Sign up for the Gatrell BS Bass Classic!! Registration opens on Sunday June 1st @ 9 AM. Tournament date is Saturday, August 16th 2025 8am - 4pm @ Papa Joes and Pats. Entries will be recorded in the order they are received, only 55 teams will be accepted! Entry fee is \$200 and is NONREFUNDABLE. If your plans change you are welcome to sell your spot to someone else. More info at [Gatrell BS Bass Classic Facebook Page](#) or email at gatrellbsbassclassic@gmail.com

Update on Black Sturgeon Lake Water Quality Testing Program in Collaboration with the Grand Council Treaty #3 Territorial Planning Unit

This year's water tests will be conducted in Spring and Summer, followed by an update to Council and neighbouring First Nations in the Fall of 2025. The results from the 2024 field work confirmed that phosphorus levels remain below the Provincial Water Quality Objectives and that there are not any indicators of negative impacts on water quality due to development activities on Lower Black Sturgeon Lake. Residents and visitors of Black Sturgeon Lakes can help keep phosphorus levels low by:

- Ensuring proper maintenance of septic fields
- Maintaining 20 metres of vegetative buffer along the shoreline
- Limiting or eliminating the use of fertilizers on or near shorelands

Boating and Shoreline Etiquette

As we approach summer and the boating season on Black Sturgeon Lake, we would like to mention once again the issue of high wakes made by power boats. All of our shorelines are sensitive to the continual wakes left by boats large and small but areas such as bays and narrow areas on the lake are more susceptible than wide open spaces. Slowing down (no wake) and staying off shorelines helps a great deal to minimize erosion of shorelines and damage to docks etc.

An example of one such place is the landing/boat launch near Thatcher Island. In recent years, some people have noticed more traffic there and are concerned that boat operators often speed in and out of the bay very quickly causing a lot of wake that impacts not only the shore of the bay but Thatcher Island itself.

We're hoping to keep this issue at front of mind for boaters and to ask everyone using the launch to slow down (no wake) entering and leaving the bay to help stem the damage caused by all the activity. Also, please consider that there is often boat traffic outside the bay traveling east/west. If a boat is coming out of the launch bay at a fairly high speed, it may collide with a boat traveling in the corridor. Also, traveling on the north side of Thatcher Island as you go from east to west as your primary route would help to alleviate congestion on the launch side of lake.

Have a wonderful and safe summer.

LOON NEST NEAR THATCHER!

There is a loon nest on south side the island beside the Thatcher Road boat launch. Its location makes it very susceptible to wakes from boats. The red area in the picture to the left indicates the area where the loon nest is affected by wakes from watercraft.

Loon eggs take about a month to hatch, please remember when you are launching your boat, or boating in this area, please go around the island on the north side for the next month or so.

Let's give this nest a chance!



Black Sturgeon Sailing Club Sailing Lessons!!



Summer sailing lessons are back on again at Black Sturgeon Lake!
More information can be found at the Black Sturgeon Sailing Club
website: www.bssailingclub.ca

We are filling up fast, with a few spots still available in the first two weeks of July!
Outside of that, all of our lessons are fully booked.

If you are interested in private lessons, there are opportunities for ages 7 to 70!
For more information send us an e-mail at info@bssailingclub.ca and we will see if we
can accommodate you.

In other Black Sturgeon Lake sailing news, 2025 is going to be a busy year at the club!
Not only will the club be holding sailing lessons, but our members will be attending
quite a few competitions throughout the sailing season. There are National regattas
being held in Gimli and at Royal Lake of the Woods Yacht Club in July. Then in August
two of our Black Sturgeon Sailing Club sailors will be representing Manitoba at the
Canada games which are being held this August in Newfoundland. Good luck to Megan
and Quinn and Team Toba!

Hope you enjoyed reading the BSLPOA Spring Newsletter!

Any comments are always welcome!

Please email bslpoa@gmail.com for any comments or ideas for our next newsletter!

Have a great Summer!!