



BLACK STURGEON LAKE NEWS

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Wanted – New Executive Members

At last year's AGM, our President Dan Olscamp asked "Is there an interest in continuing the BSLPOA? We need new people to get involved and step forward to serve on the Executive". Once again, we are asking the same question. At our AGM on July 7th, we will be seeking nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. We will also be needing a new Membership person in the coming year. Please consider getting involved in order to ensure the continuing viability of our Association. Should you be interested and have any questions regarding the time commitment involved, please contact anyone on the current Executive.



Dates To Remember

2012 Season Opener – 5:00 pm **May 20**
Kaston's Cottage – 709B Peterson Road

Annual General Meeting **July 7**
Lenaghan's Garage, 864 Peterson Rd. 9:30 am

***Horseshoe Tournament (tentative)** **August 5**
12:00 noon at the Glen

**Horseshoe Tournament will be held only if volunteers are found to help run it. Watch for signs.
Contact Don Lenaghan 548-3052*

Curling Champs

The Cathie Wiseman team from the Kenora Thursday Afternoon Ladies Curling League won the aggregate and club championship awards. These awards are for most games won for the year and most games won in the prize round. Penner Jewellers of 104 Main Street South in Kenora were the sponsors for these awards.



Pictured above are skip Cathie Wiseman, third Ginger Corbett, second Rose Derouard, and lead Lee Hensrud.

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<http://bslpoa.shawwebSPACE.ca/>

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Obituary



DAVID BARIBEAU

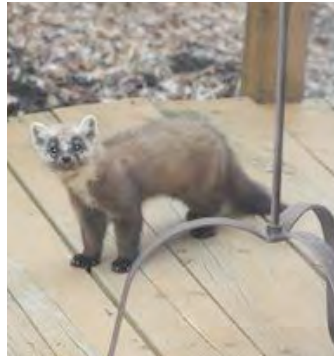
It is with sadness that we announce the passing of David on January 5, 2012 at Grace Hospital. David was one of the earliest full time residents in the Black Sturgeon Estates development and is survived by his wife Millicent and many other friends and relatives.

Pickleball Anyone?

Pickleball is a sport that is becoming more and more popular in North America. It started with mostly snowbirds playing in the southern states but now a group in Kenora is trying to start a club here.



Wildlife on Black Sturgeon Lake



Pictures of the Pine Martin and Fox were taken by Jim Micheluk



Above pictures of a deer kill were taken in January by Dean Goodmanson of North East Bay

Update: Boat Launch/Water Quality Testing

In October 2011, Ray Forzley, former VP of our Association, initiated a meeting with MNR to solicit co-operation in the form of financial support and Authorization to do work on the Thatcher Drive boat launch. Ray met with Debbie Weedon, the new District Manager for MNR in Kenora. Initially he was advised that no funds were available to assist with repairs. Ms.

Weedon did advise that they would assist by granting permission for the Association to deposit rock in the water to repair the ramp.

Dan Olscamp committed to cost sharing the \$1000 estimated ramp repair with our Association. Shortly thereafter Ray received a call from MNR who advised that they were able to find \$2000.00 to assist with road and launch repairs at the Thatcher Drive Boat Launch.

Consequently at the end of October repairs to the road and launch were undertaken. Total cost in material and equipment was \$3,200.00. MNR paid \$2,000.00, BSSPOA contributed \$500.00 and due to a small cost over-run BSSPOA contributed \$700.00. Roughly \$2,200.00 was spent on the road and \$1,000.00 was spent to repair the launch. I can advise members that the launch is 100% improved. The big hole at the end of the ramp has been filled and it is much easier to launch and remove watercraft. The road held up pretty well over the winter but will require occasional ongoing maintenance to fill pot holes and washouts.



Steve Garrett
Vice Pres. BSSPOA

At Ray Forzley's suggestion, I have been speaking with Dan Olscamp about increasing Association dues for ongoing maintenance for the Launch. The suggestion is to increase dues by an additional \$10.00 and to establish a separate account dedicated to maintenance for the Launch. Ongoing financial assistance from MNR is not guaranteed so it would be prudent to have a fund set aside for this purpose. I am sure this will be a topic for discussion at your Annual General Meeting as well as ours.

In further conversation Ray spoke to Ms Weedon about new development on the Lake and in particular back lot development with communal docks to accommodate them. Ms. Weedon advised him that they would be putting forth an opinion against this as she feels it would set a dangerous precedent, not only for Black Sturgeon, but also Lake of the Woods in particular. When advised that the City had cut funding for water quality testing on the Lake she advised that she would be looking into this as well. Ms. Weedon appeared impressed with the fact that the Black Sturgeon Property Owners Association had its own web site and was in the process of trying to organize the entire Lake under one Association.

On the issue of Water Quality Testing I have had several conversations with City Councillor Rod McKay and he advised that the City will be doing what he describes as small testing yearly along with a comprehensive test every 4 years. I think that one would have to check annually to see if in fact this is adhered to on a regular basis. BSSPOA President Ross McKnight had written to the City complaining about the lack of water quality testing on the Lake and I have followed up with meetings with Rod McKay. I think that it would be a good idea if the City heard from a lot more people about this issue. We receive little else for our tax dollars that I think the City could at least protect the environment on which they tax us so heavily.



Bruce Wiseman

Waste Management Report

We had a partial clean-up along Peterson Road last month from Sunrise Trail to the dock by Rose Derouard's. It would be nice if more residents would clean the ditches from the mail boxes along our road, also from Sunrise Trail to the north end of Peterson Road. Let's see if everyone can do their little bit to keep our neighbourhood looking good. Have a great summer!!!

Island For Sale – Fact or Fiction?



Fiction: Waterfront property, very low profile! Boat access or land access (depends on wind direction). Last seen floating in the main channel of Black Sturgeon Lake (close to Eagle Island) heading north towards Snow's fishing camp.

Fact: A floating island of reeds, bulrushes and wild grass was floating up and down the north end of Lower Black Sturgeon Lake during the month of August 2011. It was first discovered jammed into Singer/Findlay's bay (Lot 32N), totally covering their dock, boat, kayaks, etc. Ray Singer manually pushed the island out of the dock area, but it ended up in his neighbor's bay. From there it was removed (thanks to Ray's boat) and set adrift in the main channel of the lake. A strong south wind pushed it towards the north end of the lake. After that, it was seen in various parts of the lake, buffeted around by wind and waves. Who knows where it eventually ended up?

(Above picture and story submitted by Peter Mingo, 971A Petereson Road)

"This lot won't last"

This was the slogan on a recent ad for a lot for sale on Black Sturgeon Lake. A current article asks who can afford local waterfront. The shoreline of our lake is changing. More and more 5000 sq. ft. camps are being built every year in spite of efforts to maintain the pristine nature of Black Sturgeon.



Dan Olscamp
President

A 19-lot subdivision was approved this winter; a 23-lot subdivision is close to being approved; a number of little white signs on the east shoreline advertise lots for sale. Another subdivision is on hold and other large tracts of land on BSL are on the market. The price for that lot that won't last is \$275,000.

In the latest issue of the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association (LOWDPOA) magazine they herald their 50th Anniversary. In one article they talk about property tax fairness. One quote states, "It's not that we're opposed to paying taxes but we don't want to pay taxes unnecessarily." They are proud of their battles won regarding education taxation and annexation by the City of Kenora. They are adept they say at 'making noise.'

At the last couple of AGM meetings of the BSLPOA there were views expressed about unfair taxes. It went no further than those meetings. If we are to be successful in our efforts to control the rising costs of living on our lake we need a larger and more vocal membership. If we do not grow and attract passionate and committed members we will literally pay the price.

The LOWDPOA lobbies to stay outside the city limits and yet they enjoy all the benefits the city has to offer. We lobby to be treated fairly as rural residents within the city limits. Our lobby is but a whisper compared to the uproar of their more than 2000 strong membership. This is a plea for affirmative action by residents of Black Sturgeon.

On another note those of us who were here enjoyed a fantastic winter. Block heaters didn't see much use at all. An early spring in March spoiled us.

- A few reminders: *It is fire season again and a permit is required for burning. Permits are available at the firehall on Barsky's Hill.
- Garbage bag tags are required. The city will not take your garbage without a tag. Keys are available for the garbage shack. Glass must be taken to the transfer station. Bears are out and about again so be vigilant with your garbage.
- The road is experiencing spring thaw and in spite of a few speed bumps from the thaw people are still speeding. So far no one has been hit or injured. Please slow down.
- The city has approved water quality testing for the lake on a small scale. A review is planned in 2013 of the Black Sturgeon Lake Sustainability Study.
- Margaret Thatcher road is passable and the boat launch is in excellent condition.
- There will be more boat traffic this summer so please be careful on the lake.
- We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on July 7th.