



Issue 24, June 2013

# BLACK STURGEON LAKE NEWS

Published by the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association



**Dan Olscamp**  
President

## President's Report

BSLPOA May 2013

Winter did not want to let go this year. As I write this there is still ice on the lake out front and it is early May. The rains have started though, so soon there will be open water. Welcome back to those who were south and to seasonal residents. Hello to all of you hardy full-time folks. It was more like a normal winter here with lots of snow but not too much extreme cold.

We are having a General Information meeting on June 1st from 9 a.m. to noon at the Super 8 Motel Minis Hall, next to Casey's Restaurant. This is open to all residents of the lake and interested parties. This is an election year for our executive. This meeting will be to provide residents with some information on the history of our association, the mandate for our existence, some issues we have been concerned with and to have a discussion about the relevance of the association and it's future.

Our Annual General Meeting, where we will have elections of officers, will be held on August 10th also at the Super 8 Motel Minis Hall from 9 a.m. to noon. Should you wish to put your name forward for consideration for election or to nominate another, with their approval of course, we ask that you do so before June 30 th. We ask also that you submit a letter of intent, explaining your goals for the association. Our nominating committee will choose those eligible for election. If no one steps forward we are going to mothball the association. This will continue until such time as residents feel that there is a need and a desire to resurrect the BSLPOA to address relevant issues.

At this time there are very real concerns for the future of BSL. The passion to act together to pursue solutions to these concerns however is in question. It is time to test the strength of your expressed convictions. The health of BSL, the water quality, the natural and social environments are dependent upon the commitment of the residents to be its stewards. Whether you want that stewardship to be a group effort is up to you.



See you on June 1st.

**Pine Marten.**



## Membership Report for BSLPOA

April 20, 2013

### 2012/2013 Season

Number of members as of Oct 2012	122
Unpaid members as of Oct 2012	33
Total paid members for the 2012/13 season	89

### 2013/2014 Season

Number of members as of Apr 2013	122
Unpaid members as of Apr 2013	99
Total paid members for the 2013/14 season	23

Report prepared by:

Anita Shrier - Membership and Treasurer

Date: Apr 20, 2013

### Special Notes:

Newsletters and reminders were mailed /emailed to all unpaid members in Oct 2012 and they were advised that this would be their last newsletter and communication until membership was renewed.

## Treasurer's Report for BSLPOA

April 20, 2013

Balance on hand as of October 2012	\$5011.29
Receipts since October 2012	
Memberships	140.00
Accrued interest	.18
Garbage keys B.Wiseman (to petty cash)	5.00
Total Receipts	\$ 145.18
Disbursements since October 2012	
Newsletter- F. Hink	35.00
Bank service charges Jul-Dec	3.50
Postage for newsletters (from petty cash)	18.95
Total Disbursements	\$ 57.45
Current Balance (incl. petty cash of \$37.85)	\$5099.02

Report prepared by:

Anita Shrier -Membership and Treasurer

Date: Apr 20, 2013

## Reminder – BSLPOA Meeting June 1st

Just a friendly reminder of the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association General Information Meeting coming soon on Saturday June 1st.

At the meeting we will share with you all the current important information that affects the residents and members of our Black Sturgeon community. Also, we recognize that everyone has their own questions and concerns. This is the perfect time to voice them!

Put the date in your calendar and consider attending. Also, please tell your neighbours about the meeting, especially if they are not yet members.

This meeting is open to ALL residents of Black Sturgeon Lake and all interested parties.

Date: Saturday June 1st at 9:00 am

Location: Minis Hall at the Super 8 Motel

This meeting will also give everyone the opportunity to meet the members of your current BSLPOA Executive and to get to know who is representing your interests. We look forward to seeing you there.

## The Black Sturgeon Estates Horseshoe Tournament

# WANTS YOU



We need someone to take over the organizing of this year's Horseshoe Tournament. There is a strong group of volunteers to help run the event but we need someone to coordinate things.

Interested persons please contact Don Lenaghan @ (807) 548-3052 or email don2ducks@gmail.com . Without a coordinator there will be no tournament.

# TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKE

## *Our Actions Affect Our Lake*

*Submitted by Anita Shrier*

### AT THE HOME OR COTTAGE – *Our Enemy #1 = PHOSPHOROUS*

We ALL have a role to play in protecting the waters of Black Sturgeon Lake. If you've ever seen a pond, lake or river choked with green "seaweed" or covered in bright green algae, you've seen the results of phosphorus pollution. Even a small increase in phosphorus levels can cause a dramatic



**Phosphorous.**

increase in plant and algae growth. This can cause a whole range of water quality problems.

- High phosphate levels can interfere with the removal of organic material during the process of treating our drinking water. This can put our health at risk.

- The increased growth of floating algae causes water to smell bad and discolour. The algae growing on the water surface can shade submerged plants and interfere with their photosynthesis, thereby reducing oxygen production. Lowered oxygen levels can kill fish on hot days in late summer

or under the ice during winter. Extreme changes in dissolved oxygen can kill whole fish populations.

- The increased growth of rooted aquatic plants can slow river currents, block river channels, cause problems to boat motors and interfere with recreational activities like swimming and fishing.

Here are some simple things that you and your family can do to reduce phosphorous issues:

- Switch to phosphorus-free cleaning products, including dishwasher detergents, laundry detergents and personal hygiene products like shampoo and soap. Read your labels and be a wise shopper. Ask your guests to help you take care of our ecosystem by using only phosphate-free products when visiting.

- Have your septic system checked and cleaned every three to five years. Household wastewater can contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and disease-causing bacteria and viruses.



**Clean Drinking Water**

- Don't put garbage or food waste down the toilet. Garbage and food will decrease the effectiveness of your septic system.
- Compost your leaves and food waste to reduce the need for synthetic fertilizer. Fertilizers can pollute the water, promote algae growth and threaten the fish.
- Leave your shoreline as natural as possible. Leave a buffer zone of trees to prevent soil erosion and to trap the harmful sediments and phosphorous from entering the lake. These sediments can clog fish gills and smother aquatic life.

## ON THE WATER

There are many great ways to enjoy our lake including boating and swimming. But make sure your water activities aren't hurting the lake...

- Be mindful when using petroleum products around water. Wipe up any oil spills and dispose of used oil and antifreeze at a marina or gas station. Be extremely careful when filling your boat's fuel tank on the water. Did you know that 1 tablespoon of oil or gas accidentally spilled into a lake can spread a thin film over the surface of more than an acre of calm water? This is highly toxic to aquatic plants and animals both at and below the water surface.



On the Water

- ALWAYS use phosphorus-free biodegradable soaps in your boat. Soaps used in boat sinks and showers and dishwashers aren't treated in a sanitary sewer system when they're discharged, so they can cause even more harm than soaps used at home.

- When boating, do not produce a wake close to the shore. It can cause erosion and can threaten aquatic life. Whenever your boat has been in another lake, pond, or river, it should be hosed off to prevent introduction of invasive plant material, or aquatic life.

## PROTECT THE SHORELINE

Protecting our shorelines along our lakes, rivers and streams is a key environmental concern. Everyone can help. Create or maintain a natural shoreline buffer - an area of vegetation along the water's edge.

This helps to prevent shoreline erosion and pollutants from entering the lake.

Here are some helpful tips to create a natural shoreline buffer:

- Your natural shoreline buffer should extend at least 3 metres from the water's edge. The bigger the buffer, the better.



Aquatic Plants

- Plant a variety of native vegetation along exposed banks to prevent the shoreline from eroding. Deep rooted vegetation is ideal for protecting a shoreline from the impacts of harsh weather, and for stabilizing banks.



Shoreline

- Wherever possible, restore natural shorelines that have been reduced or damaged.

- DO NOT bring in sand to create a beach – this can threaten the natural habitats.

- Don't rake your yard waste into the lake, rivers, streams and don't mow your grass right to the water's edge.

## IN THE YARD

Here are simple actions you can take to have a healthy yard AND a healthy lake:

- Plant a variety of native plants in your yard including grasses, shrubs, flowers and trees. This can help prevent fertilizer runoff, which can contaminate our groundwater, lakes and streams. Ask your local garden centre for ideas.

- Keep your grass between six and eight centimetres high. This encourages root growth and reduces the need for fertilizer.

- Leave short grass clippings on your lawn. It is an easy and cost-effective way to fertilize.

- Do not over-fertilize. Most mature lawns do not need additional phosphorus. If in doubt, do a soil test prior to fertilizing. Visit your local garden centre for more information.

- If you must use fertilizer, choose "lake margin" fertilizer formulations that do not contain phosphorus or phosphates. Choose a slow-release fertilizer that allows for more nutrients to be absorbed by your grass, over a longer period of time.



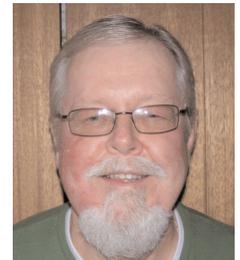
In the Yard

- "Water in" your fertilizer, but DO NOT apply fertilizer if heavy rain is forecasted. If soil is already rain-saturated wait for at least 24 hours before applying any fertilizer.
- Do not use any fertilizer within 30 metres of any wells or the shorelines of any lakes, streams or rivers.
- Always keep fertilizer off pathways, roads and driveways. If a spill occurs, sweep it up and put it back in a sealed bag to use again.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and do not allow residue to run off.
- Make sure to use erosion control whenever grading or improving your property.
- Share this information with your lawn maintenance or landscape contractor.

For more info visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca> or the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca>

## FALL YARD SALE

Jim and I will be passing on the management of the bi-annual yard sale at the Glen. Anyone wishing to take over, we will be glad to give you our signs and any help you need to get started. This fall will be the next time it should be held.



Good luck and have fun!  
Pat and Jim – 548-2426

## Bruckenberger Road Report



Another winter has passed us by on Bruckenberger Road and the four "full time" residents are grateful for the end of the cold and long season. The deer population over here seems to have dropped slightly, but is proportionate to an increase of wolves. There definitely is a pack of twelve or so wolves that wander between Petersen and Bruckenberger Roads. A lone wolf has been seen numerous times crossing our road; it makes my wife and I wary when going for our daily stroll.

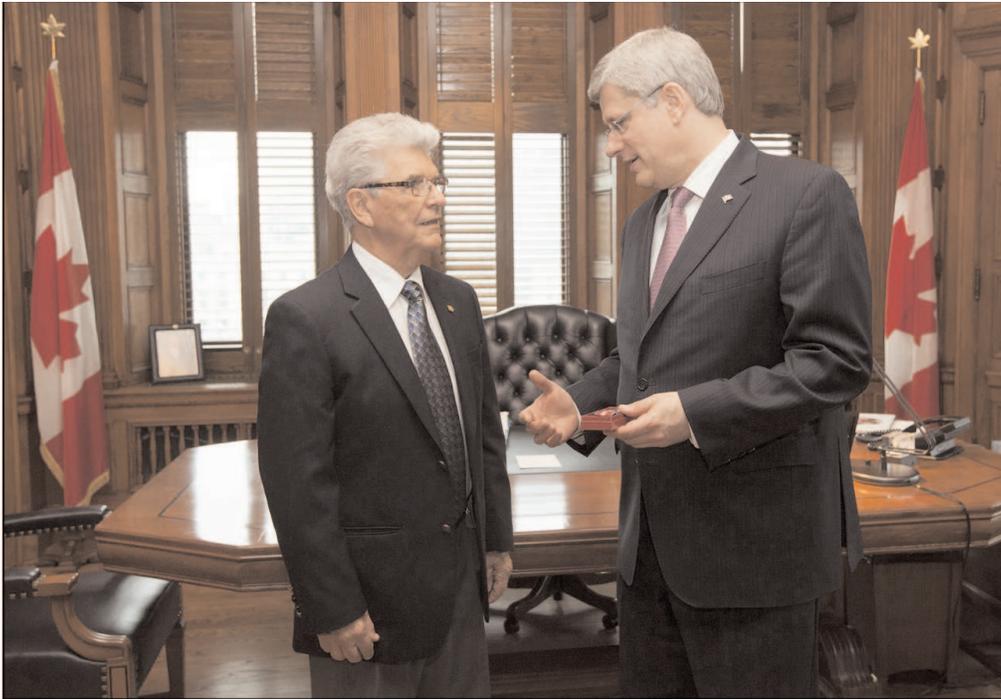
Construction on two new cabins will commence this summer on lots 2 and 5. Two other homes have been listed for sale. One owner experienced incredible frustration dealing with the Kenora planning committee over neighbor by-law infractions, and of course finds taxes to be way too high for just summer use!

As I look out over the lake, I trust that the ice will have disappeared by the time this is in print.

Happy lake time to all.

–Submitted by Ken Shrier

# Dr. Marsh Receives Diamond Jubilee Award



**Winnipeg, Manitoba**  
–Lawrence Toet, MP (Elmwood-Transcona) applauds Dr. David Marsh on receiving the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. Dr. Marsh was presented the honor by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa during National Volunteer Week.

“It is a privilege to see the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal go to Dr. Marsh, who has given a great deal of his time

and energy to the community,” said MP Toet. “Dr. Marsh has organized many boards, committees, and events in Transcona and beyond. He still remains extremely active in the community.”

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee commemorative medal was created to honor the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s ascent to the Throne. 60,000 medals will be presented to deserving Canadians as a way to celebrate Her Majesty’s service and dedication as the Queen of Canada, and the outstanding achievements by Canadians over the last 60 years of her rule.

More information on the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal Program is available at [www.gg.ca/diamondjubilee](http://www.gg.ca/diamondjubilee).

Dr. David Marsh is a former Black Sturgeon Lake cottage owner.



## Worona Road Report

Spring has arrived and the ice has finally pulled away from the shoreline (a good sign). It will be a week or so before we see boats on the lake.

Although being a cold and snowy winter, two healthy wolves were seen crossing the lake from Worona Road. Lot 309 to the lone cabin island.

There are two more lots on Worona Bay Rd. with a new home starting on one, we all know how exciting that was.

Let the spring begin.

–Tedd Evans



## Dates To Remember

**General Info Meeting – 9:00 am June 1**  
Super 8 Motel – Minis Hall

**Annual General Meeting August 10**  
Super 8 Motel – Minis Hall, 9:00 am

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

*\*Horseshoe Tournament will be held only if volunteers are found to run it.*

# Free Pickleball Lessons

Pickleball is a racket sport which combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. The game is played with a hard paddle and a polymer wiffle ball. It appears to be similar to tennis but it is much easier to play mainly because of the smaller court and the much slower moving ball.

Today pickleball is spreading like wildfire in Canada and the US and is played by people of all ages all over the world—through community groups, PE classes, YMCA, retirement communities and more. Even a small town like Killarney, Manitoba with a population of about 2,500 has started to introduce the game to its citizens.

A group in Kenora has started to play the game at Garrow Park. One of the tennis courts has 4 pickleball courts painted and 4 portable nets, some balls and paddles are available for people who are interested in playing the game. This core group of Kenora players has decided to give free pickleball lessons to interested people on Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30 pm at Garrow Park. There will be a number of people available to teach beginners the basics of pickleball and also how to keep score.



A senior group of pickleball players posing for pictures after playing for two hours.

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## Obituary



DON BUNNEY 1927 - 2012 Passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 15, 2012, at the Victoria General Hospital at the age of 85 years. Don and his wife of 65 years, Jean, have been long time cottage owners and members of the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association.



The "Black Sturgeon Lake News" is a bi-annual newsletter prepared by Frank Hink with the contributions from volunteers and community members of the BSLPOA. We hope you enjoyed reading it. If you have any ideas for the newsletter or would like to contribute to its content, we would love to hear from you. Please email your comments and suggestions to [bslpoa@gmail.com](mailto:bslpoa@gmail.com).