

BLACK STURGEON LAKE NEWSLETTER



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Email bslpoa@gmail.com



President's Message - Tino Brambilla, President BSLPOA

Autumn has begun and if your cottage shutdown is like ours, it starts the Labour Day weekend and stretches until the end of October. Doing so allows us to spend as much time at the Lake enjoying the good (and sometimes not so good) weather and the change of season.

We are two weekends into autumn as I write this message and we had a cool rainy start followed by a glorious weekend October 1st & 2nd. The marine rail is out and the dock is stored so we took time out to enjoy a hike around Tunnel Island and kayak around Black Sturgeon Lake. It is weekends like this that remind us why we come out to the lake and renews our love of the lifestyle. I hope you take the time to enjoy the fall colours, the crisp fresh air and quiet solitude.

For those that live the lake life year round, you too are preparing for the winter. Whether you are a seasonal or permanent resident, make sure whatever chore you undertake, you stay safe. Plan your work and if you need assistance, lend a hand to your neighbor. Out of necessity, the sense of community is much stronger at the lake.

The same can be said about your association. In June, at our AGM, we adopted our new constitution. One of the main purposes of the association is to "promote and foster a sense of community, friendship and mutual respect amongst the property owners of Black Sturgeon." Working with your immediate neighbors, your road neighbors and ultimately your association neighbors, we will ensure the quality of life on the lake remains wonderful.

Recently our Membership Director sold their home on the lake and resigned her position. Thank you to Anita Shrier and her husband Ken for the contribution to the Lake Association over the past number of years. We wish you the best on your next adventure and please keep in touch. Thank you to Elsie Neufeld for agreeing to take on the Membership responsibility.

I encourage you to go to the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association website at <https://blacksturgeonlakepoa.com/> and keep up to date. In this Newsletter you'll find information on some of the activities and standing issues the association has been involved with.

If you have a chance, I encourage you to get involved with the association and volunteer to do your part in making Lake Life so much better. Have a great winter, friend us on Face book and see you in the spring.



Photo Contest

Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association is having a Photo Contest!

Submitted photos should be of Black Sturgeon Lake and can include wildlife, sports, geography or people. Send in your photos with a brief description and contact information, including age (encourage the kids to submit) We will post the pictures on the Association website www.blacksturgeonlakepoa.com

Later, in March, a selection of the winners will be made. A first second and third place prize will be awarded in time for the spring newsletter.

Send pictures via email to bslpoa@gmail.com

Ritchie Road Report

by Steve Garrett

Summer is over and it won't be long before we're all taking our boats out and putting them away for the Winter. Seasonal Residents will soon be closing up their cottages for another season.

The Executive has received a lot of positive feedback about the work done on Thatcher Road Boat Launch. The enlarged turn around area at the launch for parking and several pull off areas that allow vehicles to pass each other on the single lane roadway are major improvements. Phil Burns and I took a look at Thatcher Rd on September 24th and found that it needed additional work. There were a number of potholes that needed to be filled and a bit of a washout on the final downhill slope to the boat ramp. At an Association meeting held the same day it was decided that a letter would be drafted to MNR requesting some funding to repair the Road. Last year while the Association was doing its own work on Thatcher, MNR also contributed work on the road along with two loads of material.

In case you haven't heard, we're losing Anita and Ken SHRIER as full time residents. Anita has been our Membership Co-ordinator and has been involved in the Association for many years. Ken has also been an active volunteer and advocate for the Lake. We're sorry to see them Leave and wish them well. Taking Anita's position on the Executive is Elsie NEUFELD who is a long time resident of Black Sturgeon Lake and we wish to welcome her to the Executive.

There are very few changes taking place in the Ritchie Rd area. There is still no activity in the Wright Sub Division that was approved by the City about 4yrs ago and runs off the Ritchie Rd. There is a new Cottage being constructed in our subdivision, but I haven't yet met the owners. Some good news for the Ritchie Rd residents is that the old collapsing and dilapidated building that was moved in at the far end of the road only to sit on blocks for over 25 years has finally been demolished and removed. There were many complaints about this structure and numerous attempts to get the City involved to have the eyesore removed, only to be met with the City indicating that it was out of their jurisdiction.

Next year the Executive will be looking to fill two positions that will become vacant at the next AGM Please consider stepping up. The positions are Treasurer and Vice President. We can not just sit back and hope that the City has our best interests at heart. We must insure that the Lake is cared for and the water quality does not change. There is not a lot of time commitment required and the term is for two years.

I wish everyone a good winter and hope many of you have an opportunity to enjoy it at the Lake!

The Glen and Thatcher Drive Boat Launch

These are two recurring issues the Association deals with each year. We need our members' feedback on how to handle them going forward.

The Glen

How often do you use it, or do you use it at all?

Are you happy with its condition and maintenance? What would you recommend as far as upkeep?

Should the Association use members' money to maintain it?

The existing play structure is in need of repair. Do we try to repair it, replace it or take it down?

Thatcher Drive Boat Launch

Do you use it?

Are you happy with its condition and maintenance?

Should the Association continue to use members' money to maintain it?

It is important that we hear your opinion. Please copy and paste the above questions to an email and then answer those questions (feel free to elaborate). Send email to bslpoa@gmail.com. We, of course, encourage input on other issues too. So, please send us a note on what might be on your mind.

Volunteers Needed

Over the last couple of years the Association has had problems replacing our retiring Executive with new volunteers. This year is proving to be no exception. Anita Shrier, who has been our Membership person for a number of years, has sold and is leaving Northern Ontario; our Vice President, Tino Brambilla moved up to President and his VP position remains open. Our Newsletter person, Frank Hink asked to be replaced, but again we have no takers.

The commitment of time for the above positions is minimal. We need your help. The Association cannot function with only one or two members doing the majority of the work. Please contact a member of the current executive if you can help keep BSLPOA alive.

Area Reps

Reps are needed for Bruckenberger Rd, Mineault Rd., Williams Rd and James Rd. Area reps are the main contacts for the Association. They are responsible to collect membership dues and to pass on any issues to the Executive.

Season Opener

The last May Season Opener was held at the Parents on Peterson Rd. This event was well attended by members and was a great success. We are looking for a Host for May 2017. Please consider.

Black Sturgeon Sailing Club



2016 was the BSSC's inaugural year as a Club and we started the season with a race in June followed up with four more throughout the season. The races typically had at least seven boats competing and one race saw 11. As most of our members are novices, we spent time practicing starts and by the end of the season everyone was getting pretty good at hitting the line on time.

The Mobile Sailing School came out again this year and we registered 30 students. The Club is looking forward to having the school again next year and there is talk of expanding it to a week long program.

The racing season will be expanded also with the addition of a few more races.

**Membership Report for BSLPOA
Oct. 5, 2016**

2016/17 Season

Number of members as of Oct. 5, 2016	135
Unpaid members as of Oct. 5, 2016	43
Total paid members for the 2016/17 season	92

Report prepared by: Elsie Neufeld – Membership

Date: Oct. 5, 2016

Special Notes: As the new membership director, I am trying my best to pick up where Anita Shrier left off. Thank you, Anita, for making it as easy as possible for me by handing over a well-maintained system.

If you are an unpaid member, you can pay your membership fee by sending a cheque for \$20 to: BSLPOA, c/o Elsie Neufeld, 9 Pinecone Dr., Kenora, ON, P9N 0E2.

Also, if you know someone who wants to be a member, please forward their information to me and I'll send them information on BSLPOA and how to become a member.

James Rd. Report - Elsie Neufeld

As the James Rd representative, I want the property owners on James Rd., Rocky Point Road, Eagle Dr. and Blue Heron Dr. to contact me if they have any concerns regarding the health and happiness of Black Sturgeon Lake and our community. I talked to several of you this past summer but not all. I hope to continue making the rounds to meet you and hear what your thoughts are about Black Sturgeon Lake as a lake and as a community. I want to hear about what is going well and what is worrying you. If you have concerns feel free to contact me by phone (807)548-8455 or by email eneufeld523@gmail.com.

Government Liaison - Elsie Neufeld

Since I just took on this role, I cannot report much activity, but I can explain what this role entails. In general terms, the Government Liaison establishes and/or maintains communication between the municipal, provincial and federal departments and BSLPOA. It is also the Liaison's responsibility to take BSLPOA concerns to the City, MNR and other agencies.

As a former journalist, I have spent many hours covering city council meetings in Kenora and other municipalities. I believe this experience will help me be an effective liaison.

If you have concerns you wish to discuss with me, please contact me by phone (807)548-8455 or by email eneufeld523@gmail.com.