



BLACK STURGEON LAKE

NEWS

Published by the Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association

www.blacksturgeonlakepoa.com

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Email bslpoa@gmail.com



Black Sturgeon Lake AGM, June 24th 2017
9:30 AM – Kenora, Super 8

Presidents Welcome Spring 2017

Driving to the cottage after a six month absence is an annual experience for seasonal residents and snowbirds. It's early April, the sky is blue, the air is still and the sun is heating the ground. Will we be walking and lugging up our road or will we be able to drive in? Snow always accumulates in the deep north shade of the trees. We enter the driveway to find clear sailing and we exhale a sigh of relief.

First unknown behind us. Cottage is still there, sigh of relief. Doors open, no critters around and once we warm the place it's like we were just here. We'll wait until warmer weather before the water is turned on. Nothing is more refreshing than knowing another season at the lake is about to begin.

While lakefront homeowners and year round neighbours enjoy all four seasons, the spring and summer are our raison d'être. We'll drive around all the scenic routes looking for changes, new buildings and other developments. We do the same on the lake during our first boat rides. We are always amazed when new cottages and shoreline docks seem to have just popped up over the winter.

Speaking of developments, we were only advised of two variance notices on Black Sturgeon this winter. Both were minor in nature and we did not comment/intervene. One of the many stewardship roles the BSLPOA performs.

The association executive will meet soon to plan the year and prepare for the AGM. More about the various activities can be found in this newsletter. We still need some volunteers, so if you are willing to lend a hand, please reach out to us.

The LOWDPOA cottage show is being held May 1st at the Victoria Inn Winnipeg. You are sure to meet friends, neighbors and service providers at this well attended event.

Find out what we're doing and hope to see you soon. Your suggestions are always welcome. Here's to a happy and safe summer.

Cheers.

Ritchie Road Report April 9th

Spring has arrived and most of the snow has disappeared at this writing on April 9. Ice remains on the Lake but is melting away from the shore and becoming very dark in color. If temperatures stay warm I'm sure the ice will be gone in about a week. On Friday, April 7, I was able to drive right down to the boat launch despite ice covering the road in several places. There are many potholes on the top section of the road and the Association will need to discuss funding to see if this can or will be addressed in the spring. There was also a bit of wash out at the bottom of the hill by the launch. In addition, there are a few Poplar trees leaning towards the road and they will have to be addressed before they become an unexpected obstacle on the road. In short, some funds will be required to repair the road and a work party will need to address the problem trees. In addition to the regular winter issues, our own Ritchie Road is seeing more washouts and ruts in places we haven't seen in the previous years.

For the first time in almost 30 years, there has been vandalism to the Bypass Bridge over Ritchie Rd with respect to spray painting vulgarity on the cement pillars of the bridge. We are currently in the process of advising the O.P.P. and the City of Kenora. There has been no new action in the Wright Subdivision off of the Ritchie Road but there is a new cottage being constructed on the west side of Lot#1 in our subdivision, the first new development here in many years.

Some apparent good news is that our Hydro One Bills will be slightly reduced. Thanks to the media attention on the cost of Hydro in Rural Northwest Ontario, the Utility is apparently reducing the delivery charge by 25%. Time will tell how this will settle out.

The Lake Partner Program has already sent out their yearly kits for water testing so I'll be out again this year at the south end of the lake, along with Phil Burns at the north end, taking water samples to ensure our water quality continues. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the Lake this summer,

Steve Garrett
VP, BSLPOA



Lambertus Posthumus - A resident of Pinecrest Nursing Home passed away on February 15, 2017 at his residence. He was born April 11, 1926. Lambertus was predeceased by his father Rudolf Posthumus and mother Clara Posthumus (Elizabeth), sister Mary Clarina JMJ, brother Gerben Posthumus, sister Gertrude Bonnema all in the Netherlands, brother Laurence Posthumus passed away on August 31, 1982 in Kenora, Ontario, he will be sadly missed by Clara Kemp of Dalmeny, Saskatchewan and nieces and nephews in Canada and the Netherlands. He was a member of the Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church since 1954 and was self-employed as a dairy farmer. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Lambertus' memory to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, 110-1525 Carling Ave. Ottawa, ON K1Z 8R9 or the Canadian Cancer Society, 67 Ontario St, St. Catharines, ON L2R 5J5.

Visitation was held February 18, 2017 at Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Centre. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. Online condolences may be made at www.brownfuneralhomekenora.com

Ray Singer wrote on Facebook - Hello all. Sad news: Lambert Posthumus died today, peacefully, at Pinecrest Nursing Home in Kenora. Lambert, along with his brother Lawrence lived together at "Dutchie's Point", and had a small dairy farm from the 1950's on the 350 acres which is now our wonderful cottage country. They sold the land, aside from about 10 acres to the Winnipeg developers who subsequently created Bl. Sturgeon Estates. Lambert remained on his acreage after his brother died, and was there until 12 years ago when ill health forced him to sell his beloved trailer home and move to Kenora. An exceptionally kind and cheery individual, he will be remembered by many for the assistance he freely gave to many cottagers in the 80's and 90's. He pulled our car out of snow on our steep drive a few times with his trusty 1940's Russian tractor. Funeral service at Brown's Funeral Home, Kenora, Saturday Feb 18.

Season Opener

Traditionally, on May long weekend, someone on Peterson Rd hosts a party celebrating the start to another summer season at the lake. Typically, this Potluck dinner party has been hosted by a volunteer with a good sized garage (in case of inclement weather and electricity for speakers/band) this is a great way to meet new friends or to catch up with old ones with great food and entertainment.

We are still looking for a volunteer to host or organize the party again this year. If you want to help organize the Opener but don't want to host at your cottage, then it has been suggested the party go to the Glen. This party is open to all members and their guests and in past years around 50 kids and adults show up. If you would like to host, or help organize, please contact us at bslpoa@gmail.com

Association Board

The Black Sturgeon Lake Property Owners Association is run by volunteers, drawn from the community of cottagers and full time residents. To function properly the board needs a number of volunteers. At this point in time, the board needs volunteers for a number of positions such as; Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Area Reps. Please consider offering a bit of your time to the board. A strong and organized board means a strong voice when it comes to issues like City services, taxation and water quality. The board needs your help at this time. Please step forward and lend a hand to your Association.

Treasurers Report – Donna Albak

The winter season typically is very slow with little in the way of activity and as such there is a balance of \$7,065.39 in the Association bank account.

2017 Photo Contest

In the fall newsletter, we solicited members to submit pictures for our first Photo Contest. The response has been fantastic with 49 photos submitted. You can view all the photos on our website in the photos section. Submissions were closed at the end of March and a professional photographer from Ottawa judged the shots. The following are the winners; 1st prize – #001 Marnie Melnyk, 2nd prize – #008 Don Lenaghan and 3rd prize - #030 Michael Stephenson. Honorable mentions go to pictures #002, #004, #010, #031 by Don Lenaghan, Lori Rawliuk and Marnie Melnyk. The winners can pick up their prizes at the AGM (June 24th @ 9:30AM Super 8, Kenora) \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.



**FIRST PRIZE –
MARNIE MELNYK**

MISTY MORNING



**SECOND PRIZE – DON
LENAGHAN**

AFTER THE STORM



**THIRD PRIZE –
MICHAEL
STEPHENSON**

Deer and Wolf – Donna Albak

On a side note. On a recent visit to the lake this Easter weekend we came upon a fresh deer carcass very close to our cottage. It appeared to have been taken by wolves within a day or two of our arrival – so be aware the wolves are still active in the Peterson Road area.



Membership Report for BSLPOA

April 21, 2017

Report prepared by: Elsie Neufeld – Membership

Date: April 21, 2017

A new lake season begins soon, if not already for some eager kayakers and boaters, and that means it is time to pay the 2017/18 membership fees. Some members choose to pay several years in advance, saving the hassle of yearly payment. We keep track of the credit and move it forward. When the credit runs out, we send you a notice for renewal.

Remember, being a member of BSLPOA is important. Membership gives BSLPOA a collective voice, an effective voice, for approaching government and other agencies with our concerns and comments. It also supports BSLPOA community events to bring Black Sturgeon Lake residents together.

You can pay your membership fee by sending a cheque for \$20 per family per year to: BSLPOA, c/o Elsie Neufeld, 9 Pinecone Dr., Kenora, ON, P9N 0E2.

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.

2016/17 Season

Number of members as of April 21, 2017	136
Unpaid members as of April 21, 2017	21
Total paid members for the 2016/17 season	115

Women on the Water Kayak Report

Enthusiastic kayak sets record

By Elsie Neufeld

On April 15, lower Black Sturgeon Lake resident, Dawn Anderson, sent this email message to her kayaking friends.

“HELLO MY WOMEN OF THE WATER FRIENDS.....just have to share that kayak season has officially opened in my world...the ice went out this afternoon and I went out in my kayak...rammed a few pieces of ice...soaked up some rays and loved it!! Just sayin'!!...so let's get our season under way...Cheers and have a Great and Happy Easter...love Dawn xoxoxox”

This must be the earliest anyone has been on the lake in a kayak. If you know otherwise, let me know.

On April 21, I started my own kayak season with Dawn. No ice to ram, but it was a bit chilly on the bare feet when I had to step into the lake to get into my kayak. Our floating dock with ladder, my usual embarking point, isn't in place yet.

It was glorious to be out there again with ducks and loons, with the sun glittering off the water ripples, in that incredible peace of the lake.

The Women of the Water kayak group mainly consists of women in the southern half of our lake; the northern part of the lake is distant for our leisurely kayaking ways. We do make it midway with ease. We sometimes entertain the thought of organizing an event that would bring all kayakers of lower Black Sturgeon Lake together.

If kayaking and/or this kayaking event interests you, please call or email me: eneufeld523@gmail.com or (807)548-8455.