



Moon River Ripples 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I am writing this we are experiencing flooding conditions with extremely high water levels. As you may have heard on the news, there has been a record amount of water coming over the Bala Falls and consequently there has been water damage to some homes and cottages on the River.

This also means that currents are strong in many places, especially through The Chutes. Please exercise good judgment if you go boating in the next few weeks and remember to take your cell phone or tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.

As homes and cottages open up this spring, take a good look at your waterfront. If you have lost dock sections, garden furniture or other summer items please let us know and we'll alert others who may have acquired a new dock, a better lawn chair or other waterfront toys!

On the other hand, if you've acquired anything that floated on to your property, please email me a picture and we'll try to locate the owner. My email address is: sandycurrie@sympatico.ca

It has been a long winter and now I think we deserve to see sun, new growth on the trees and our friends and neighbours returning to their homes and cottages on the Moon River.

The Directors have another active summer planned for this year and you'll read about some of those events later in this edition of Ripples. Drew Covern has news regarding our updated web site and Bruno Polewski has news about last summer's water testing and plans to add more test sites this year.

I have organized the Jazz Cruise once again – the band is booked and they've started to get ready. It has been suggested (thanks Don Edwards) that we should add an MC to the cruise crew. Any volunteers? I'd like to find a

person who has great local knowledge and can interact with those on the boat and with our members and their guests as we tour the River. The time commitment is about 4 hours on cruise day, August 3, 2013.

We've got a lot happening, so please read on to see what's going on that might be fun to attend or become involved with.

Our first event of the season is the Spring Members' Meeting which will take place on Saturday, June 1st at the Bala Legion on Maple Street. Our scheduled starting time is 10:00am but all are welcome to come early, especially if you need to renew your memberships!

We will have some interesting speakers with information you'll want to hear about such as lifesaving Defibrillators for your cottage. Also, Dana Strength, our Nurse Practitioner, has an update on her facility and of course, various Directors will have news regarding our plans for 2013. Additional speakers and topics will be added, so please plan to attend.

Once again we are planning to hold our community Canada Day celebration. The location will be Margaret Burgess Park right beside the North Bala Falls. Starting time will be 8:00pm. **Important Note** – This year's party will be held on **Sunday, June 30th**.

See you on the Moon!

Sandy Currie

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES

June 1 – Members' Spring Meeting – Legion
June 30 - Canada Day Celebration – Bala Falls
Aug 3 - Jazz Cruise
Aug 4 - Family Fun Day/Regatta-Jaspén Park
Aug 10- Golf Tournament - Muskoka Woodlands
Aug 31- Annual General Meeting – Legion



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MEMBERSHIP

Last year's Membership renewal campaign, using good old fashioned snail mail, proved to be a resounding success. As a result, the Board decided to continue with the snail mail reminder again this year.

2012 saw the return of many previous and existing members, and welcomed many new members to MRPOA. Your membership is more important than ever. Invite your neighbours both old and new, who may not be familiar with this great community group, to visit our website to learn more about us. Last year was the first time we made a request for donations to offset the cost of two of our events; the ever popular Jazz Cruise and the newer celebration of Canada Day at the Bala Falls. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who donated to these two great events.

In previous years we have collected non-perishable items of food at each of our meetings and events throughout the summer for the local Food Bank, operated by the Bala Congregational Church. We plan to continue with the Food Drive again this year, and will be collecting at all of our meetings and social functions throughout the Summer.

The Muskoka Lakes Association is holding its annual **Seedling Sale** again this spring. MRPOA members are welcome to participate. The order form is available at www.mrpoa.org or at www.mla.on.ca. Follow the links on these home pages that will take you to the form. This is a great opportunity to purchase native species plants at very economical prices. **Orders must be placed by May 1st.**
The pick-up day is Saturday, May 18, 2013.

The Photo Contest is still ongoing, so please enter your favourite cottage photos for a chance to win a place in the MRPOA Calendar. Information on how to enter is posted on our

website. For members who would like a copy of the Moon River Map, they will be available for purchase (\$10) at meetings and social events.

The Membership Application is available on our website. To assist us in keeping our records up to date, please complete the application in full.

We look forward to seeing everyone back for a fun filled 2013.

WATER QUALITY TESTING

The **MRPOA Aqua Man, Bruno Polewski**, and his crew, will be out on the Moon again this year taking samples for the Muskoka Lakes Association's water testing program. The program this year will consist of one morning of training and 4 weekends of testing, at 6 Moon River sites.

Sampling will start on the Victoria Day weekend, and end on the last weekend in August. The gathering of samples at the six sites takes about an hour. If you are interested in helping as a water sampling volunteer, please contact Bruno at 905-818-5518 or bruno1694@hotmail.com.

Monitoring of the Moon River water started in 2005. Test Site MOO-11, between the chutes and Kimberly Island, was established as the new deep-water reference site in 2012. The E.coli levels in 2012 were below the MLA upper limit with the exception of MOO-4 (southeast corner of Whitefish Bay). This site had levels over the MLA limit in June but still under the Provincial limit. The re-test of the site the following week was below the MLA limit, so no further action was taken.

To view the Moon River Report for 2012, please visit our web site at www.mrpoa.org and follow the links.

For more information on this program or to ask questions, contact **Bruno** at **905-818-5518** or email bruno1694@hotmail.com



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FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun. AUG. 4

Get ready for the “funnest” day of the summer!

Our annual **Family Fun Day/Regatta** is a few months away, and the planning has already begun! Let your friends, family and renters know about this exciting day!

Last year, despite the rain, we had an amazing turn out. It was my (Drew Cowern) first year running the regatta and I feel that it was very much a success. I owe a great deal to Bob Bryers and his family for their support on the day. Besides the rain and some minor issues, the day ended with some very happy winners!

Running the regatta is something I feel was inevitable for me. Even though you won't find my name etched into any of the trophies from many moons (pardon the pun) ago, I most definitely attended many regattas and took home lots of participation medals. Even though it is nice to win events, the MRPOA regatta has always been a place for the young and for the “older” to come together, socialize, compete and enjoy a day with the family and families on our beautiful Moon River.

This event has always been something I look forward to even as an adult. Without the support from our volunteers and sponsors it would not be possible to run this amazing event year after year. The Family Fun Day/Regatta will continue to provide the young and the old with a full day of fun and activities. Who knows, maybe it will be your son or daughter running these events 20 years from now.

This year the **Jaspen Park** event will start at 11:00 am as usual, with the Open Long Distance Swim from “Rose lawn Lodge” on River Street. While those not in the water are getting registered, we'll have the treasure hunt for the kids (10 & under) and the Open Canoe Race around White Birch Island.

There will be swimming and running races for all ages.

Now is the time to get the kids under 4, and 5 to 7 practising the shoe and balloon toss. If you can toss the water balloon the length of the living room (without the balloon breaking), you are sure to be favoured for the big show on: Sunday August 4th 2013.

Everyone loves the canoe races, the hurry-scurry fours and, of course, the in-and- out canoe race. Who will be the first to tip the canoe? The racing ends with the very funny Land - Ski Race. It is impossible to pick which team will cross the finish line first or be the first team to be on the ground in a human pile up. The awards presentation closes the day with great prizes donated by local businesses.

For the 2013 schedule and more information please Email: DrewCowern@yahoo.com or Call: 647-401-3739.

Remember, even if you can't participate, everyone is welcome to come down and share in the fun, enjoy some good food, good conversation and make some new friends.

We are always looking for new sponsors and volunteers to help out so if you are looking for a way to give back just a little, please contact me using the above information.

PS: On the day **do not** forget to bring your canoe, life jackets, sun-screen and a few extra dollars for the Raffle and food stand.

See you all there!!

Moon River Code
Please Follow it!
Copy included in this issue
It may also be downloaded from www.mrpoa.org



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MEMBERS' SPRING MEETING – Sat. JUNE 1

The Spring Members' Meeting is a great way to re-acquaint yourself with your neighbours and catch up on the issues and current events on the Moon River and Bala area. The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1 at 10:00 am in the Bala Legion. Moon River Maps will be available for purchase. Those who wish to renew or join MRPOA, can do so between 9:30 and 9:45. The Membership application is also available on our web site: www.mrpoa.org.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Sun. JUNE 30

This year's celebration will take place on **Canada Day 'Eve'** to accommodate those that must head back to the city on the holiday Monday evening. Folks can gather near the Bala Falls in Margaret Burgess Park for free cake, fireworks and music, 8-10 pm.

JAZZ CRUISE – Sat. August 3rd

The MRPOA Jazz Cruise will once again fill the River with lively music, as we entertain you on your beach or dock, or follow us in your boat!

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Sat. August 10th

The **Annual MRPOA Family Golf Tournament** is guaranteed to be a fun day to spend with your family and friends. This is a 9-Hole Best Ball format at **Muskoka Woodlands Golf Course**.

Registration & Coffee: 8:00 am
Shot Gun Start: 9:00 am sharp
Lunch and Prizes to follow at the Bass Lake Restaurant.

Golf Fees of approx. \$31/person are paid at the Golf Course. Electric Carts must be pre-booked by calling the golf course at 705-765-1577.

Donations of prizes are always welcome. To participate or donate prizes, contact **Muriel** at the following numbers:

Call: 705-762-4142 or Text : 416-433-7049

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Financially, MRPOA is off to a great start for the 2013 season. We have already received membership renewals from many members. We would like to remind you that membership revenue provides much of the funding for MRPOA activities and would like to encourage you to support the association by renewing your membership. Donations towards the historic Jazz Cruise Event and Canada Day Event are also gratefully appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support!

MRPOA WEBSITE

As many of you know the current MRPOA website, located at **MRPOA.ORG**, has been in need of a major face lift! So it is with great pleasure that we can finally announce the good news!! Drew Cown and Nigel White (Web Developer) along with Bill Purkis have been working hard over the past year to get the new website up and running by the June 1st 2013 Members' Meeting.

MRPOA looks forward to bringing more news and information to our members by providing an easy access website with quick links to a vast amount of information for our members and their families.

Some of the new website features will include an up to date interactive events calendar, sponsors page, water testing results, board meeting notes and of course photos of our amazing river and river life.

We will also have up to date boating safety information and relevant contact numbers which are a must for all. We hope that our new site will become one of your favorite places on the web! So please look out for the launch as we are very excited about this well needed change.