



Moon River Ripples 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has not been nearly as cold and snowy a winter as we have seen over the past couple of years. While not good news for those who enjoy snowmobiling, it does mean that spring is arriving early and there is less snow to melt!

This means that once again, we can sit back and enjoy the signs that spring is here! The bulbs are starting to show through the soil and it is almost time to rake up the winter's wind-blown dead branches.

Your MRPOA Directors welcome back those who have wintered in warmer climates or have been visiting friends and family outside of Muskoka.

A reminder to those intrepid early season boaters – please be very careful as the water is extremely cold and there is a lot of debris in the river right now. Anyone seeing docks, lawn furniture or other valuables floating by or resting where they should not be, is asked to email MRPOA. We'll try to reconnect the items with their owners!

Over the winter months, the MRPOA Directors along with Cathy Malcolmson, have been working on a new membership brochure. Thanks to everyone who worked on the brochure, especially Cathy who did a great deal of the work.

The brochure is almost complete and you'll begin seeing the fruits of their labour when we distribute the brochure in May. We hope that the brochure will help us achieve our goal to have all Moon River property owners join MRPOA!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Debora Medhurst for stepping forward to run the Annual MRPOA Family & Friends Golf Tournament. Debora came forward last year and did a fantastic job of organizing the golf tournament. It was a great success. Debora has volunteered to run it again this year. So once again, thanks Debora.

This edition of Ripples will be emailed to most members and mailed to those who expressed a wish to receive a paper copy or do not have an email address. In the future, we would like to send the Ripples by an email only distribution wherever possible.

Lastly, watch for our Social Events Survey which will be sent out by email in the near future. Please take a moment to complete it. Your feedback is very important to us.

See you on the Moon!

Sandy Currie – President 705-762-0714

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES

- June 4 - Members' Spring Meeting – Legion**
- July 1 - Canada Day Celebration – TBD**
- July 30 - Jazz Cruise**
- July 31 - Family Fun Day/Regatta-Jaspens Park**
- Aug 6 - Golf Tournament-Muskoka Woodlands**
- Sept 3 - Annual General Meeting – Legion**



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WATER QUALITY TESTING

The Moon River Property Owners' Association will be on the water again this year, testing your water quality as part of the Muskoka Lakes Association's Water Quality Testing Program. This will be the 12th year that MRPOA is participating in this initiative by the MLA. We will be testing at nine selected sites from the Falls to the Chutes.

This year we will also be starting a test program for zinc and mercury at the Bala Falls. This is to monitor for changes due to any potential future construction activity there.

Last year's water quality report, as well as all previous year's reports, can be found on the MRPOA website. The direct link is:

<http://www.mrpoa.org/#!water-testing/c1561>

We encourage members to volunteer to participate in this year's testing program, particularly if you have access to a boat. If you think you would like to help out, please contact Bruno Polewski at (905)818-5518 or bruno1694@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Together we can make a difference. We need each other to make our community the best it can be. By working together, to preserve our quality of life on the Moon and protect our property and water, we can make our community the best it can be.

With this in mind, MRPOA will undertake a major Membership Campaign this Summer.

We will be inviting all cottage owners and their families, young, old and those in-between, who may not be familiar with MRPOA, or are new to the River, to join our organization. The larger our numbers, the louder our voice when tackling issues which affect us all. Our social events are not only fun for all our members, but are also a great way to meet neighbours.

To our returning Members, we thank you for your continued support, and for your very generous donations towards the Jazz Cruise and Canada Day Celebration. To show our appreciation we are again offering an early bird membership renewal fee of \$35 to those who renew by May 31st 2016. As of June 1st 2016 the fee will be \$40.

For those who may not yet have taken advantage of this offer, please use the Early Bird Renewal Application Form mailed to you in February. To assist in keeping our records up to date, please complete each section of the membership form.

Getting involved is both rewarding and appreciated. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items for the West Muskoka Food Bank at our meetings and social events over the Summer.

If you would like to help out at some of our upcoming social events please email: membership@mrpoa.org. For members who would like a copy of the Moon River Map, they will be available for purchase at a cost of \$10. We look forward to seeing everyone on the Moon for a sun & fun filled 2016.



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MEMBERS' SPRING MEETING – Sat. JUNE 4

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 4 at 10:00 am in the Bala Legion. Moon River Maps will be available for purchase. Those who wish to register can do so between 9:30 and 9:45. The Membership application is also available on our website: www.mrpoa.org.

FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun. July 31

Our annual **Family Fun Day/Regatta** is a few months away, and the planning has already begun. We have decided to invite Ben's Grill once again this coming year so that people can enjoy a great lunch with reasonable prices of around \$5 or \$6 per person. Ben and his wife were excellent last year and we are happy to support local business.

Last year we had some events which needed more participants, so this coming year we are asking for families to bring friends or leave a note for renters to let them know about this wonderful family event!! We will be posting the schedule for the day on our website at www.mrpoa.org before June so that will give everyone lots of time to download / print and share the events for the day!

The **Jaspen Park** event will start at 11:00 am as usual, with the Open Long Distance Swim from "Roselawn Lodge" on River Street. While everyone not in the water, is 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 practicing the shoe and balloon toss! It's fun and easy. If you can get to the point where you can toss the water balloon the length of the living room (without the balloon breaking), you are sure to be favored for the big show on Sunday July 31st.

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 at around 4:00 pm with great prizes donated by MRPOA members and local businesses.

For the 2016 schedule and more information please visit www.mrpoa.org or Email DrewCovern@yahoo.com or feel free to contact Drew at **647-401-3739**.

You don't need a lot of skill to take part in the activities. 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.

PS: Don't forget to bring your life jackets, sun-screen, a few extra dollars for the Raffle and food stand and a canoe if you have one.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!



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JAZZ CRUISE – Sat. July 30th

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!

ANNUAL MRPOA FAMILY & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT – Aug. 6th

Don't miss out on a fun day of 9 holes of golf, great food and a ton of prizes at the annual Moon River Golf Tournament. It's a great way to connect with others on the Moon River as an individual or by entering a foursome. The scramble format ensures golfers at all levels enjoy the play with teams requiring one female in each group. Prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive recognize the talents of the more competitive players.

Date: Saturday, August 6, 2016

Place: Muskoka Woodlands Golf Course

Registration: Starting at 8:00 a.m. Fresh coffee and muffins will be available

Shot Gun Start: Tee off at 9:00 a.m. sharp

Lunch: Following play, lunch at nearby restaurant - Bass Lake Roadhouse

Registration Fee: Approx. \$35/Golfer which is paid during registration at the golf course

Electric Carts: Must be pre-booked by calling the golf course at 705-765-1577

RESERVE EARLY & SAVE THE DATE!

Register by email to:

deboramedhurst@aol.com

or by phone: 905-880-9983

Prize donations greatly appreciated!

The Moon River Code

Please Follow it!

See www.mrpoa.org

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Fri. July 1st

Last year we unfortunately had to cancel the Canada Day celebration on short notice due to Swift River Energy Ltd. banning MRPOA from entering Margaret Burgess Park. This year, we are in the process of applying to Swift River for permission to use the park for our Canada Day celebration. We will keep you posted as to whether we can go ahead with it, when we hear back from Swift River with their decision.

MRPOA WEBSITE

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

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

Having renters this year? Please send them to www.mrpoa.org so they can read the Moon River Code, see our upcoming events or contact us to ask any questions they might have regarding the local area!

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Last year was another great one for MRPOA. With member fees and donations, we were able to support our annual events such as the Jazz Cruise and the Regatta. We were also able to fund our Water Testing initiatives which monitor the health of the Moon River.

Thank you for your continued support!