



MRPOA River Ripples Spring 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Spring after a winter that came late and stayed long. It was relatively uneventful, given what was going on around us in the province – even the spring floods were not too onerous here on the Moon. That is not to say there has not been lots of activity.

Meet and Greet. A first ever MRPOA *Meet and Greet* has been arranged for Saturday, July 7, 3-5pm at the newly renovated Bala Bay Inn. Owner, Kim Ward, has promised a pleasant serving of appetizers and a beverage of choice for \$8. This event came about as a result of my ongoing experience of meeting different groups of members at each of our events. The Meet and Greet is designed with everyone in mind and we hope you will all come out and mingle.

Water Testing. Brian McDonald has been in contact with the water samplers, and they will be out again this year. Brian and Peter Hemming will once again do the analysis for e-coli and total coliforms (with training provided by Mike Logan through the Muskoka Lakes Association's Water Quality Initiative). Anna Mallin will continue sampling for phosphorous as part of the Ontario Lake Partner Program (which is free) and we will drop the phosphorous analysis done through the MLA WQI (which is not free). It did not seem efficient to continue with two phosphorous test programs, particularly given that the Lake Partner Program data are used by the District for its Muskoka Water Web and the results from the MLA WQI are not.

Bala Boat Launch. The River Street boat launch dock has been replaced. It remains to be tested. Please pass on experiences – good and not so. There is no further official work to be done, so feedback is essential to identify additional improvements which can be carried out within the operating budget of the Public Works Department. Thanks again to Sandy Currie for all his assistance in getting the project this far.

June 9 Meeting. Our new Township of Muskoka Lakes Chief Administrative Officer, John Cosgrove, has been invited to our June 9 meeting to introduce himself to our group. Be gentle! But John is ever willing to respond to questions.

Membership Campaign. This year the Board is undertaking a membership campaign. We need the involvement of *ALL* Moon River property owners as there are several issues which may escalate in the not too distant future. Despite the prolonged delays, Swift River Energy has not abandoned plans for a power generation station at Bala Falls north dam site. In fact, this spring, they signed a partnership agreement with Horizon Power. There are still many bureaucratic hoops to jump through, but the bottom line remains that we will have an opportunity to ensure that our voice is heard in the development of this project.

Official Plan Review. The Township is currently undertaking an Official Plan review, a review of the big picture plans for the township. Planning for expansion, or not, of our urban areas is a part of this process. Under the new Municipal Act, municipalities have expanded powers to control site specific activities. It is encouraged that property owners work together to prepare a common vision for their specific lakes. These Lake Plans have been very effective in ensuring protection of the local culture as well as defining development in other areas. Some have mentioned to me that our river is pretty much developed already, but there is also the issue of redevelopment. I suggest that it would be time well spent for a group of our members to rally to review the potential of such an undertaking for our Moon River.

Regatta. Dave Stoddart, our events director, is already organizing our regatta and the United Church will provide one important aspect – food. Members who have items which they wish to contribute as a

prize, are asked to contact Dave or any director. Check our website for our sponsors listing and consider adding your company to our list.

Administration. Christine Anderson and Anna Mallin have ensured that our business responsibilities are in order. MRPOA has ongoing association with FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations, WRAFT/CAPTR (fair taxes) and Muskoka Heritage Foundation. There are many benefits to these affiliations for information and some discounts, but they do generate considerable mail and we attempt to cull and/or pass on in e-mail what may be important to you as individual members.

Fire Insurance. The Township budget for 2007 has been approved by Council. The good news is that our fire protection service levels are on track to qualify for *Superior Pumping/Tanker Shuttle Certification* which could qualify rural properties without hydrants for reduced insurance levels (by as much as 27%) possibly as soon as the end of June. Much of the capital expenditure of the Township budget pertains to the upgrading our firehalls.

Patricia Arney, President

Summer Events – 2007

- May 21 – Water Sampling Begins
- June 9 - Members' Meeting at the Bala Legion – 10:00 a.m. (membership directories will be available for pick-up)
- July 7 – Meet and Greet, Bala Bay Hotel, 3-5 p.m.
- Aug 5 - Regatta/Corn Roast – Jaspen Park
- Aug 11 - Golf Tournament (contact Glen Wimbush 762-3447)
- Sept 1 - AGM at the Bala Legion – 10:00 a.m.

**Volunteers needed for the Regatta –
Contact Dave Stoddart if you can help!**

2006 Water Quality Report

In the summer of 2006 MRPOA's water sampling and analysis program was carried out as a part of the Muskoka Lakes Association's Water Quality Initiative. Samples from 152 sites on seventeen lakes and rivers including the Moon River were collected by some 80 volunteers on a bi-weekly basis throughout the summer of 2005 (eight samples from each site). The bi-weekly samples were analyzed for several factors then averaged for each test site. The full report for the Muskoka Lakes Association Water Quality Initiative is available at www.mla.on.ca (click on "water quality").

The directors of MRPOA have extracted the Moon River information from the MLA report and it is reproduced on our website www.mrpoa.org. Copies will be available at the June 9 Members Meeting. Moon River water quality is excellent according to Provincial Standards. However, the MLA has established its own targets for water quality which are more stringent than those of the Province. All of our sites were below the targets set by the MLA during 2006 including readings at the three sites which were above these targets during the very hot summer of 2005.

Many thanks to Brian McDonald and his team for the Water Sampling. You will see Brian and his team out taking samples again this year, starting on May 21.

Anna Mallin

GENERAL MEETING June 9, Bala Legion

10:00 a.m.

General Meeting of Members

Meet John Cosgrove, Chief Administrative Officer, Twp Muskoka Lakes
Topics: Private Buoys, Boat Launch Ramp, Planning Summer's Activities

Moon River Code

Please copy it – Follow it – Distribute it!!

Copy provided with this mailing. May also be downloaded from www.mrpoa.org

AGM – SEPTEMBER 1, 2007 – BALA COMMUNITY CENTRE – 10:00 A.M.

MOON RIVER CODE

Please help us promote safety, preserve our water quality and maintain good neighbourly relations ...

Swimming & Boating Safety

Boaters – please keep at least 25 feet away from docks when moving at speed and reduce speed to *dead slow* near docks and swimming areas. Cottagers – please ensure that floating water toys and swimming rafts don't impair boating safety. Water skiing and tube boat drivers - please ensure the safety of swimmers and boaters around you.

Water Quality

- Don't feed the waterfowl - they foul our beaches and water and help produce "swimmer's itch".
- Please – no washing in the River! Even phosphate-free soap degrades the water quality.
- Cottagers - please plant or preserve a natural a vegetative buffer along the shoreline to help filter storm water flowing from your property into the River
- Boaters – please ensure that fuel doesn't spill into the water

Noise

- **Amplified Sound.** Please control amplified sound so that it can't be heard beyond the bounds of your property.
- **Nuisance Noise.** Report excessive noise to the OPP (1-888-310-1122) for immediate action when noise has reached the level of a public nuisance. You may also telephone the Township of Muskoka Lakes By-Law Enforcement Officer concerning noise after 11:00 p.m. (705-765-3156).
- **Boat Noise.** Boaters, Tubers, PWC users - please don't circle repeatedly in one area.
- **Boat Launch Areas.** Please be mindful of neighbours living next to the boat launch. Use the area only for boat launching. Be quiet if you use the boat launch after dark.

Dock and Shoreline Preservation

Wakes can damage shorelines and docks. Boaters - please ensure that wakes are appropriate to the distance from shore. Reduce speed to produce *no wake* in narrow areas. Travel far enough from shore to produce minimal wake elsewhere.

Lighting

Please ensure that light does not shine beyond your property boundaries. Please join all Muskokans in promoting a dark-sky-friendly environment.

Wildlife

Please help avoid attracting nuisance bears and other unwanted animals. Keep garbage in bear-proof containers, clean your BBQs and don't leave pet food outside.

Cottage Rentals

Please ensure that all cottage renters have the necessary Pleasure Craft Operators Card before allowing use of your power boats. Renters – please respect the Moon River Code.