



Moon River Ripples 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that Spring has finally arrived, let's hope that we can settle down to enjoy a great summer - we've earned it this year!

Your Directors have been busy over the fall and winter months.

In late October, we worked with the Township of Muskoka Lakes to plant over 300 perennials along the edge of Highway 169 between Muskoka Road 38 and the South Bala Falls. Stop by and enjoy the shrubs and flowers.

In March and April, our webmaster, Drew Cowern, began the "spring clean-up" of our website at www.mrpoa.org. Please use the site, we now have more information of relevance to our members than ever before.

In early May, Bruno Polewski, head of water testing will be heading to Bracebridge to attend a symposium on the Muskoka Watershed. Bruno will report on this event at our Spring Members' meeting on June 7th.

Barb MacIntosh has been doing great things getting our renewals done early. She'll give us a report later in this newsletter.

As your President, I have also been very busy – multiple presentations to Muskoka Lakes Council, a presentation to the Public Works and Planning Committee of the District of Muskoka, a media interview with CTV2 on the matter of the Appeal of the Judicial Review under the Public Lands Act and many other matters of concern to our members. These issues all impact "Life on The Moon" in some crucial way.

I also remain very active and connected with boating safety.

Last summer, many of our members participated in a survey conducted for Safe Quiet Lakes.

The outcomes of the survey can be found via a link on our website or directly through www.safequiet.ca. I encourage members to read the entire report as it is very insightful. We clearly have boating problems on the Moon River and we need to start to be better and more respectful boaters.

Here are some topics that we can all work on:

Operating at too high a speed, too close to shore – The speed limit is 30 km/hr within 30 metres of shore.

Allowing one's boat to be too loud – A simple solution is to make sure the boat is correctly loaded and that the engine is properly trimmed.

Choppy water from boat wakes – Don't always play in the same location, spread the waves out.

Unsafe and discourteous operation of boats – Keep clear of other vessels and obey the 'rules of the road' when boating.

MRPOA is here to help make your time on the Moon River more enjoyable. Please try to attend our events. A complete list of our activities is below. Come out and have a ton of fun! Thanks for being a MRPOA member.

Sandy Currie – President 762.0714

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES

June 7 – Members' Spring Meeting – Legion

June 29 - Canada Day Celebration – Bala Falls

Aug 2 - Jazz Cruise

Aug 3 - Family Fun Day/Regatta-Jaspen Park

Aug 9- Golf Tournament – Muskoka Woodlands

Aug 30- Annual General Meeting – Legion



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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 consists of one morning of training and 4 weekends of testing, at 9 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 9 sites takes about an hour. A helper with a boat would be appreciated. If you are interested in helping as a water sampling volunteer, or wish to discuss the results, please contact Bruno at:

WaterTesting@mrpoa.org.

Monitoring of the Moon River 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 2013 were elevated in most of the bays during the hot weather. The sites with concerns were re-tested on the following week and came in below the MLA limit so no further action was taken.

To help promote better water quality, it is important to remember:

- ***Do not feed the waterfowl***
- ***Encourage natural shoreline vegetation***
- ***Avoid manicured lawns that attract Geese***
- ***Avoid using fertilizers, they ultimately run off into the water***
- ***Have septic systems checked and pumped regularly***

The links to the 2013 MLA Water Quality Testing Results can be found on the MRPOA home page (www.mrpoa.org). The links to all the previous years' results are there as well.

MEMBERSHIP

The 2014 Membership 'snail mail' renewal campaign is well under way. This year an Early Bird offer of a \$35 registration fee is offered to all our members who renew their membership before May 31st 2014. There has been an excellent response to this offer. For those who may not yet have taken advantage of this, please use the attached Early Bird Membership Application Form.

Your membership is more important than ever. As of June 1st 2014, the membership fee will be \$40. 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. The Membership Application is available on the website. To assist us in keeping our records current, **please complete the application in full.**

The MRPOA Board would like thank all our members for their very generous donations to help offset the cost of the ever popular Jazz Cruise and Canada Day Celebration at the Bala Falls.

This year we plan to continue collecting non-perishable items of food at each of our summer meetings and events. As in previous years, the items collected will be donated to the food bank operated by the Bala Congregational Church.

The closing date for entries to our MRPOA Calendar Photo Contest will be August 30th 2014. Now is the time to send us your favourite cottage photos. Information on how to enter is posted on our website. Moon River Maps will be available for purchase (\$10) at all meetings and events.



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FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun. AUG. 3rd

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. Last year we tried some new food/lunch ideas and although it tasted great, sadly it was a little on the expensive side. We have decided to bring back the good old BBQ this coming year with reasonable lunch prices of around \$5.00 to \$6.00 per person.

Also, last year there were 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 **Jaspén 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! 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 August 3rd.

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 local businesses.

For the 2014 schedule and more information please Email: DrewCovern@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.

PS: Don’t forget to bring your life jackets, sunscreen, a canoe (if you have one) and a few extra dollars for the Raffle and food stand.

See you all there!!





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MEMBERS' SPRING MEETING – Sat. JUNE 7

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

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Sun. JUNE 29

This year's celebration will take place on **Sunday June 29th** to accommodate those that must head back to the city on the holiday Monday. Folks can gather near the Bala Falls in Margaret Burgess Park for free cake, fireworks and music, 8-10 pm.

JAZZ CRUISE – Sat. August 2nd

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 9th

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 will follow at the Bass Lake Roadhouse.

Golf Fees of approx. \$33/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, call or text **Muriel** at: **416.433.7049**

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, Canada Day Celebration and the Regatta. We were also able to fund our Water Testing initiatives which monitor the health of the Moon River. Along with these events, MRPOA was also able to contribute to community organizations like Safe Quiet Lakes to promote the safe, quiet and respectful use of our water. **Thank you for your continued support!**

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, board meeting notes and of course photos of our amazing river and river life.

Don't forget the photo contest for our 2015 calendar will be closing at our fall AGM! So please send in your **high resolution** photos from around the river this summer.

Check out the up-to-date boating safety information and relevant contact numbers which are a must for all.

Having renters this year? Please send them to 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!

Moon River Code

Please Follow it!

Download it from www.mrpoa.org