



Moon River Ripples 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has finally arrived in Bala and on the Moon River! The last of the snow is now gone except for some piles deep in the woods.

I look forward to seeing our Members at the upcoming Spring Meeting on Saturday, June 6th at the Bala Legion. New members are most welcome to come out and meet others!

The North and South Dams in Bala are not quite wide open, while the Moon Dam and Ragged Rapids Generating Station are holding back water west of the Moon Chutes. We do have some flooding between the Moon Chutes and Bala. So far, the flooding does not appear to be as significant as in either 2013 or 2014. In Jaspens Park, the benches at the shore are under water and the Township Dock on Portage Street is well under water. The good news is that the water level has dropped by 4 inches in the last 24 hours.

We have also been busy getting ready for another "Summer on the Moon" with social activities for everyone to enjoy!

The Jazz Cruise is all set to go: the same entertaining musicians as in past years, including Bala's own Jack Hutton as the jazz pianist!

I've also been working with the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) on an innovative boating safety initiative. Time permitting, we might see an experiment on the Moon River with a new tool to help boaters monitor their speed. With a grant from the Canadian Safe Boating Council, the MLA has purchased a portable (and automatic) radar speed sign.

The solar-powered device is designed for narrow and congested locations (**NOT** open water). This device alerts boaters when they are going too fast and will remind them of the correct speed. As such, the actual boat speed will not be displayed; rather, the message is simply to tell the operator that the boat is going too fast. It does capture time and speed data but **CANNOT** track any identification information. It is **NOT** photo radar for boating, but simply a device to remind boat operators to slow down and be safe!

In addition, as you will read later on in *Ripples*, the other Directors have been busy getting MRPOA ready for 2015.

In closing, we are always in need to additional volunteers to help our team of Directors. If you have some spare time and are willing to help with any of our events – Canada Day Party, Water Testing, the Family Fun Day and in particular, **this year we are in need of some to run the Golf Tournament** - please drop us a note if you can give us a hand!

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 705.762.0714

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES

June 6 – Members' Spring Meeting – Legion
July 4 – Canada Day Celebration – Bala Falls
Aug 1 – Jazz Cruise
Aug 2 – Family Fun Day/Regatta-Jaspens Park
Aug 8 – Golf Tournament – Tentative
Sept 2 – 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 11th year that the MRPOA is participating in this initiative by the MLA.

Two important aspects of great water quality are healthy shorelines, and healthy forests. At our June 6 spring membership meeting, we will have a presentation on this topic, by Jenn LeMesurier of the Muskoka Conservancy. Jenn is a fantastic source of information on these topics. She is willing to visit your property to discuss opportunities to your improve shorelines and forests.

Last year's water quality report, as well as all previous year's reports, can be found on the Muskoka Lakes Association website:

http://www.mla.on.ca/Page.asp?PageID=835&ContentID=&SiteNodeID=185&BL_ExpandID=

As always, we encourage members to participate by volunteering to assist with this year's testing program. Contact Bruno Polewski (905)818-5518 or bruno1694@hotmail.com if you think you would like to help out.

MEMBERSHIP

The 2015 Membership Campaign is underway. Due to the excellent response last year, an Early Bird Registration fee of \$35 was again offered to our returning members who renew before May 31st 2015. To date this has been a resounding success. Thank you all who have again generously donated to our Jazz Cruise and Canada Day Celebration.

For those who may not have taken advantage of this offer yet, please use the Early Bird Membership Application Form mailed to you earlier this year. As of June 1st 2015 the membership fee will be \$40. Please invite your neighbours, young, old and those in-between to join this great organization.

Our cottages and the River are very special, not only to us, but to our families, and future generations. The larger our numbers, the louder our voice when tackling issues which affect us all-, such as the **Environment of the River, Protection of our Wildlife/Fish Habitat/Wetlands, Preservation of our Heritage Lands, Boating Safety and support of the Local Economy.**

We need each other to make our community the best it can be. Getting involved is both rewarding and very much appreciated. If you would like to help out at some of our upcoming social events or perhaps become a Road Captain - a point person on each street to help with information and co-ordination - please email Membership@MRPOA.org. We encourage you to invite your neighbours who may not be familiar with MRPOA, or are new to the Moon, to attend our June meeting.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank, at each of our meetings social events again this year.

The Membership Application is available on our website: www.MRPOA.org.



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FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun. AUG.2nd

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. We have decided to bring back the BBQ again this coming year so that people can enjoy a great lunch with reasonable prices of around \$5-6.00 per person. Ben and his wife were excellent last year and we are happy to support local business.

Once again last year we had 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! 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 Sun. August 2nd.

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 4:00pm with great prizes donated by local businesses.

For the 2015 schedule and more information please visit www.MRPOA.ORG or Email DrewCovern@yahoo.com or feel free to contact Drew at **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 canoe, life jackets, sun-screen and a few extra dollars for the Raffle and food stand.

See you all there!!

MEMBERS’ SPRING MEETING – Sat. JUNE 6

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 6 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 website: www.mrpoa.org.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Sat. July 4th

This year, Canada Day falls in the middle of the week and because of this our Canada Day celebration will take place on **Saturday July 4th**. Folks can gather near the Bala Falls in Margaret Burgess Park for free cake, fireworks and music, 8-10 pm.



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JAZZ CRUISE – Sat. August 1st

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 – Volunteer Needed (Tentative date is Aug 8th)

After many years of running a very successful golf tournament, Muriel Hutchinson has decided to step down as the Golf Tournament organizer. On behalf of the members, the Board of Directors of MRPOA would like to express our sincere appreciation to Muriel for all her fine efforts.

And on that note, we are looking for a volunteer to run the Golf Tournament this year. The course and the lunch venue have already been tentatively booked. All we need is someone to come forward to organize the foursomes and the prizes, which are usually donated by the participants.

If we can find a volunteer to run it, the **Annual MRPOA Family Golf Tournament** is always 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.

Please call Lynda Petrie at 905-380-7150 if you are able to volunteer to run the Golf Tournament.

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. **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.

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