



Moon River Ripples 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to Bala, Muskoka and most importantly, Moon River! It is great to see cottages coming back to life, and more people in and around Bala.

The winter of 2011 – 2012 certainly has been “out of the ordinary” for everyone, whether you wintered here in Muskoka or in other locales. As one who enjoys winter – snow and cold weather, I was disappointed to have such a warm and dry winter. Perhaps, next winter I’ll see a return to a more normal winter season!

The Directors of MRPOA have been busy over the past months planning a summer of fun and activity in and around “**The Moon**”. We hope that all our members will enjoy what we have lined up. You’ll read more details as you enjoy **Ripples**.

For those who did not make our AGM last September, let me list your **Directors for 2012** once again. They are:

President – Sandy Currie

Vice-President – Bob Bryers

Secretary – Deb Ylanko

Treasurer – Lynda Petrie

Directors-at-large:

Bruno Polewski – Water Quality Testing

Muriel Hutchinson – Social Events

Barb MacIntosh – Membership

Bill Purkis – Web Master

Ex-Officio – Drew Cowern – Regatta

2012 will be Bob Bryer’s last season as a Director of MRPOA. Bob has served for several years and has done a masterful job of running the Regatta. This summer Bob will stay on to mentor Drew Cowern as our new Regatta Chairman. Thanks to both Bob and Drew for undertaking this flagship MRPOA event.

Special thanks go to Bob for his years of dedicated service to MRPOA!

This year, at Barbara’s suggestion, we mailed renewal forms to all past members. Thanks to all who have already mailed them back, and an extra thank you to those who added a donation for our special events. Barb’s report later in **Ripples** goes into more detail. Thanks to Barb for a membership renewal project well executed!

There is also good news on the **health care** front in our area. There is now a **Nursing Station** in Wahta. **This facility is open to all residents of the Bala community.** MRPOA encourages members to support nurse **Dana Strength’s efforts to bring quality health care resources to our community.** Phone: **705-762-2354 ext. 243.** For Hours of Operation and other information: www.wahtamohawks.ca - News & Events tab.

I would also like to make a **general request for volunteers.** MRPOA activities cannot take place without a dedicated group of **volunteers.** We now need some additional help – **no previous experience is necessary!**

In particular, the **Regatta** requires a large number of adults to assist Directors and Regatta Chair Drew Cowern, to run a large and “fast-paced” event. **If you can spare even a few hours,** either to organize the event or help on **Regatta Day,** we would be most grateful.

We also need help for other events such as the **Jazz Cruise** and the **Canada Day Party.** Anyone willing to help at our events is encouraged to contact me directly. I can be reached by **telephone** at **705.762.0714** or by **email** at sandycurrie@sympatico.ca.

Your Directors look forward to a great summer season on “**The Moon**”. Be safe, enjoy our river and savour the environment around us!

Sandy Currie



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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 will consist of 4 weekends of testing, at 10 Moon River sites. In 2011, the MLA program biologists increased the number of samples at each site (adding phosphorous to the bacteria and turbidity) as well as sample locations (from 8 to 10). To partially offset this extra work, they reduced the number of sampling weekends from 8 to 4.

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

The **Moon River Water Quality Testing** results for 2011 continued to indicate excellent water quality at the ten sites. In 2010, there was some elevation in total coli forms and e-coli in two of the bays, but they were all below the MLA limits in 2011.

To view the Moon River Report for 2011, 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

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

MEMBERSHIP

The MRPOA Board decided to begin the **2012 Membership Campaign** earlier this year, using good old-fashioned snail mail. To date, it has been a great success. We have seen the return of many previous and existing members, with more arriving weekly. Your membership is more important than ever. Invite your neighbours, both old and new, to visit our web site to learn more about us, and see what an outstanding community group MRPOA has become. This year, we have included a request for donations to offset the cost of our ever-popular **Jazz Cruise**, as well as the new and very successful **Canada Day** celebrations at the **Bala Falls**.

Last summer's **Food Drive** was a great success. Seven boxes of non-perishable food items were donated to the **First Muskoka Congregational Church**, who in turn arranged for the food to be distributed locally through the Gravenhurst Food Bank. Thanks to all who contributed so generously to this worthy cause. We plan to continue with the **Food Drive** again this year, and will be collecting non-perishable food items at all meetings and social functions throughout the summer. This year, the same church has opened the new "**West Muskoka Food Bank**".

The **Photo Contest** is 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 on our web site. For members who would like a copy of the **Moon River Map**, laminated copies will be available for purchase (\$10) at meetings and social events throughout the summer.

The **Membership Application** is also available on our web site. To assist us in keeping our records up to date, please **complete the application in full**. On behalf of the MRPOA Board, we look forward seeing everyone back for a fun-filled 2012!



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FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun. AUG. 5

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. The **Jaspen Park** event will start at 11 am as usual, with the Open Long Distance Swim. 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 practising 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 favoured for the big show on August 5th.

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. As we mentioned at the close of the 2011 Regatta, **Bob Bryers** will be passing the lead to **Drew Cowern** for the 2012 Season; and, Drew will need some help. Feel free to contact Drew to see if there is anything that you might do to help out.

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.

PS: Don’t forget your canoe, life jackets, sun-screen and a few coins for the Raffle and food stand. **See you all there!!**

MEMBERS’ SPRING MEETING – Sat. JUNE 2

The **Spring Members Meeting** will be held at the Bala Legion on Saturday, June 2 at 10:00 am. **Moon River Maps** will be available for purchase. Those who wish to re-new or join **MRPOA**, can do so between 9:15 and 9:45. The **Membership application** is also available on our web site: www.mrpoa.org.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Sun. JULY 1

Gather at the **Bala Falls** in **Margaret Burgess Park** for free cake, fireworks and music, **8-10 pm**.

MEET & GREET – Sat. JULY 7

Join us for the **4-6 pm Cocktail Hour at the Moon River Lookout**. Have fun mingling with all your river neighbours. Invite any new cottagers and introduce them. Your cottage guests are welcome additions. Enjoy Tiffany’s special fare and a glass of wine. Cost: approx. \$15/person. Tiffany is offering **Special Dinner Discounts on any prior reservation** made for that evening’s dinner.

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Sat. August 11

The **Annual MPROA 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 House 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 Text : 416-433-7049



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MOON RIVER COTTAGER DONATES \$3,300 IN RADIO CONTEST WINNINGS TO SAVE THE BALA FALLS

Long-time Moon River cottager and MRPOA Board Member, **Deborah Ylanko**, was a contestant on Toronto radio station *CHFI's Big Bag of Cash* contest, in which she won \$3,300. Deb told the show's co-hosts that she would be turning her winnings over to the **Save the Bala Falls** group.

Here's why she donated the money:

"It doesn't make sense to blast up Bala, ruin the Falls, all for energy that would be produced at the time of the year that we don't have the demand for it in Ontario. The only time significant amounts of energy would be generated from this project would be during periods of high run-off such as spring and fall. However, Ontario already has an abundance of energy during the spring and fall.

In the summer, when we do need power in Ontario due to air conditioning use etc., the proposed plant would **not** be able to produce much energy because there is not enough water flowing through Bala to make hydro electricity.

The power from the proposed hydro plant would not be used locally; it would go onto the grid. All Ontario residents will pay a private company vastly inflated prices for the power."

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Financially, MRPOA is off to a great start for the 2012 season. We have already received membership revenue from more than one hundred members. This year, in addition to membership dues, MRPOA has also received generous donations from many members to further support the historic **Jazz Cruise** Event and our new **Canada Day** Event. **Thank you all for your continued support and generous donations!**

SAD NEWS

As many of you know, Jack and Carolyn Sullivan have been long-time Moon River cottagers on Hurling Point Road. The Sullivans have been great supporters of MRPOA, and always interested in social activities and the many issues affecting "life on the Moon".

Sadly, on March 28th, Jack suffered a massive heart attack and passed away suddenly. Jack was 73. Our deep sympathies go out to Carolyn and her family.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dinner & Dance - Saturday, May 12 at the

**Port Carling Community Centre
in support of the**

South Muskoka Hospital Foundation

Catered by the Moon River Lookout

Dance to the music of the Eclectic Company

Cash Bar - Great Door Prizes!

Time: 5:30 - Social; 6:30 - Dinner

Tickets: \$50.00

For Information and Tickets call:

705-681-0754 or 705-762-1158

IMPORTANT MRPOA DATES & ACTIVITIES

June 2 - Members' Spring Meeting - Legion

July 1 - Canada Day Celebration - Bala Falls

July 7 - Meet & Greet - Moon River Lookout

Aug 4 - Jazz Cruise

Aug 5 - Family Fun Day/Regatta-Jaspén Park

Aug 11 - Golf Tournament - Muskoka Woodlands

Sept 1 - Annual General Meeting - Legion