



Moon River Ripples 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your MRPOA Directors welcome you back for another season "on the Moon". As you read through the Moon River Ripples, you will see that our Directors have been very active over the winter months.

Firstly, I would like to specifically thank Cathy Malcolmson, Barbara MacIntosh and Drew Cowern for their hard work this winter. It is not an easy task to hold productive meetings, when only a few of the Directors live in Bala during the winter. But we made it happen and I hope that the hard work meets the expectations and needs of you, our members.

This will be my last Moon River Ripples.

As of our AGM in September, I will be stepping aside from my day-to-day duties as a Director and President of MRPOA. I plan on being less active as I assume the role of Past-President.

However, before I retire, there are two tasks that I wish to complete. They are:

1. Locate and mentor a new organizer and skipper for our summer Jazz Cruise. I took over that role from Brian McDonald in 2009 and we've continued to have a lot of fun these past 8 years. 2017 will be my 9th and last Jazz Cruise as the skipper. So, who can take over the role? I hope someone will; I would not like 2017 to be the last year of our flagship event.

2. Recruit and mentor some new members to take on the roles and responsibilities of being Directors of MRPOA.

Anyone who is interested in either of these volunteer roles, is urged to contact me as soon as possible.

Ideally, those who volunteer, will do so early to allow for adequate time to participate in upcoming meetings and to "shadow" current Directors as we go through our 2017 season.

See you on The Moon!

Sandy Currie
email: sandycurrie@sympatico.ca

IMPORTANT DATES & ACTIVITIES

June 3 - Members' Spring Meeting – Legion

July 1 - Canada Day Celebration – Jaspens Park

Aug 5 - Jazz Cruise

Aug 6 - Family Fun Day/Regatta – Jaspens Park

Aug 12 - Golf Tournament-Muskoka Woodlands

Sept 2 - Annual General Meeting – Legion

MEMBERS' SPRING MEETING – Sat June 3rd

Join us on **Sat. June 3 at 9:30am for Free Coffee and Donuts** before the Spring Members' Meeting to be held at the Bala Legion. It's 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 begin at 10:00am.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION – Sat July 1st

Everyone is invited to gather in **Jaspens Park** for free cake, ice cream, fireworks and music, **8-10 pm**. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

JAZZ CRUISE – Sat Aug 5th

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!



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MEMBERSHIP

Summer is fast approaching and soon it will be time to return to life “on The Moon”. Our members have repeatedly let us know the quality of the Moon River water is of high importance. The cost for analysis of our water testing samples, which is the largest annual expense incurred by MRPOA, has doubled over the last two years. To ensure we operate MRPOA with a balanced budget, incurring these expenses has lead, regrettably, to the need for an increase in our membership fees to \$45. Cathy Malcolmson, our “Aqua Lady”, explains the Water Testing process later in the newsletter.

The 2017 Early Bird Special offer of \$40 to those who renew before May 31st 2017, is well underway. Thank you to all returning members for your continued support, and for your very generous donations to our Jazz Cruise and Canada Day Celebrations. For those who may not have yet taken advantage of this offer, you may do so by using the Early Bird application mailed to you in February. To assist us in keeping our records up to date, please complete the application in full.

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items for the West Muskoka Food Bank at our meetings and social events over the Summer. I am happy to report this has been a great success. Thank you to everyone who contributed food items as well as financially last year.

The MRPOA Board plans to conduct an online general survey at the end of April. The purpose of the survey is to help us get to know who our members are, so we may better represent you. The survey may be completed anonymously. We will inform all our members by email when the survey is available. **Please take a few**

minutes to complete the survey. Thank you in advance.

We, the MRPOA Board, look forward to seeing everyone back on the Moon for a sun/fun-filled Summer 2017.

FAMILY FUN DAY/REGATTA – Sun Aug 6th

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 are bringing back Ben’s Grill once again this 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.

We really need more participants; so this 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 it 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.

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



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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 MRPOA members and local businesses. 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.

Don't forget to bring your life jackets, sunscreen, a few extra dollars for the Raffle and food stand and a canoe if you have one. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!

****Our Regatta NEEDS your help!**** Currently our Regatta team is trying to find MRPOA members who would be interested in joining a short term Regatta committee. This 2017 working committee's objective is to take an in-depth look at our Family Fun Day to see if there is anything we can change to make the day more fun for families and friends. If you would like to get involved or find out more information, please send an email to: DrewCownern@yahoo.com or call **647-401-3739**.

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!**

The Moon River Code

Please Follow it!
See www.mrpoa.org

ANNUAL MRPOA FAMILY & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT – Sat Aug 12th

Don't miss out on a fun day of 9 holes of golf, great food and lots 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 12th

Place: Muskoka Woodlands Golf Course

Registration: Starting at 8:00am Fresh coffee and muffins will be available

Shot Gun Start: Tee off at 9:00am 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: 647-223-4645

Prize donations greatly appreciated!

WATER QUALITY TESTING

In 2016, MRPOA once again participated in the Muskoka Lakes Association's Water Quality testing program. With the help of volunteers,



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we collected monthly samples from 9 sites on the river between May and August.

Our water was tested for clarity, E. coli, phosphorus, bacterial counts, as well as zinc and mercury.

We conducted year-round (monthly) testing for zinc and mercury, both above and below the North Bala Falls. We are testing year-round for these two substances due to the zinc contamination found in the groundwater at the site of the proposed hydro-generating station.

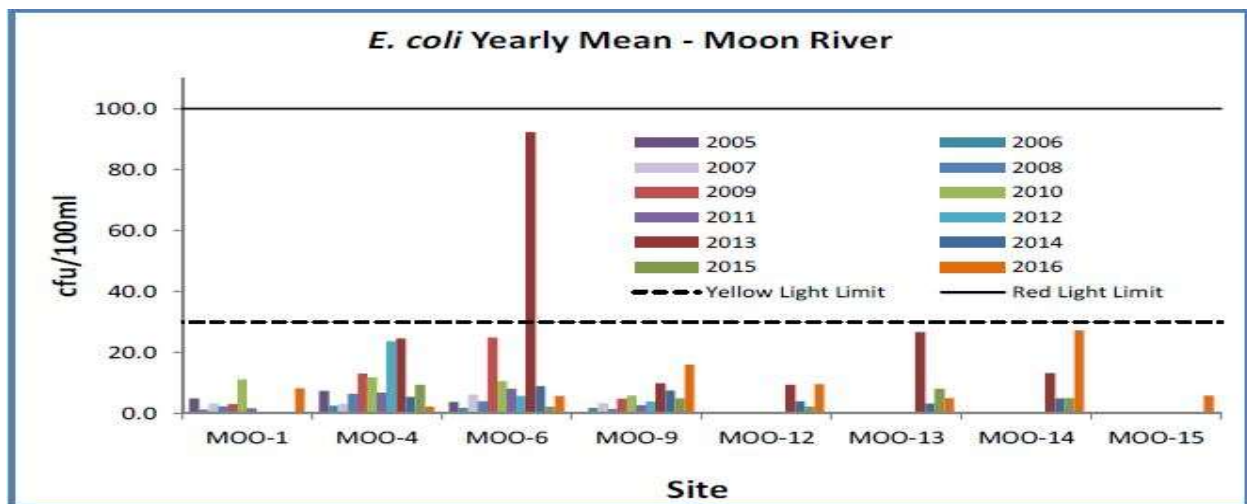
We would like to thank Bruno Polewski for leading our water testing, along with Jessica Ylanko, Hannu Ylanko, Frida Ardal, Allan Turnbull, Bill Purkis and Cathy Malcolmson who were out on the water gathering samples.

Our results (see below) have indicated that the Moon River water quality remains consistently good. Jaspens Park beach was an area of focus

for us due to periodically high bacteria levels caused by geese population. We will continue to closely monitor this site in 2017.

The 2016 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>
Volunteers from MRPOA will be on the water again this year, testing your water quality. If you would like to join our team, or would just like to come out and spend a morning on the river with us, please contact Cathy Malcolmson at 416-721-4915 or camalcolmson@hotmail.com

We encourage all of our members to follow **The Moon River Code**. Please remember to keep contaminants from entering the water and maintain a natural vegetation shoreline to help deter geese from "fowling" the river.



Station	Mean Secchi Disk (m)	Total Phosphorus (µg/L)		E. coli Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)	Total Coliform Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100 ml)
		Spring Turnover	Yearly Mean		
MOO-1		5.7	6.5	8.3	7.9
MOO-4		7.3	7.4	2.2	54.9
MOO-6	4.50*	4.7	5.8	5.8	43.3
MOO-9		3.7	5.4	15.9	63.7
MOO-11	3.48	4.7	6.8		
MOO-12		8.6	7.7	9.6	55.3
MOO-13		7.2	7.7	5.0	70.2
MOO-14		4.7	5.5	27.2	50.5
MOO-15		6.3	6.0	5.8	51.9