



## MRPOA River Ripples Spring 2009

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### *President's Role*

I won't kid you. I am finding my new role as your President very challenging. The learning curve, as you can imagine, is straight up. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve an Association driven by values and guided by very fine traditions. You can count on me to be open and accessible. I listen well. Without the support of fellow Directors, especially that of Past President, Patricia Arney, and Secretary to the Association, Anna Mallin, I cannot do my job. Their intuition and guidance have helped me considerably these first two hundred days. Each Director on the Board contributes in her/his way that is essential to the operation of our Association. I thank them all.

#### *MRPOA Activities*

The work of your Association goes forward every week. Your Directors met April 18 in Bala yet most work of your Board is conducted by e mail – a formidable tool for communications. While our events occur during summer months, preparations have already begun by your Directors and others. From Corn Roast, Regatta, Meet and Greet on to Moon Water Testing, details are being put in place now. Oh, not to forget the Golf Tournament and the Jazz Cruise! I never fail to be impressed by the work of volunteers. Your Association is blessed with very capable and dedicated Directors and many other Volunteers.

The pivotal development in our Association at this time is clearly the work of the Lake Plan Committee under the capable leadership of David Sculati. This initiative, more than any other, has potential for very positive impacts on our enjoyment of the Moon River for many years to come. I encourage you to attend the sharing of information that David and his team will provide on May 16, at the Legion (1:30 p.m.).

#### *Hydroelectric Generation in Bala*

Interest in Swift River Energy Limited's proposal for hydroelectric generation in Bala continues. The publication of the Environmental Screening Review may be imminent pending release from appropriate Ministries. When that occurs, I will immediately let Members know how to access the Review and your Board of Directors will hold a General Meeting following quickly on its publication.

The release of the Environmental Screening Review may provide a better sense of questions individual Members may ask. I argue that our Association does not have the personal and financial resources to seek relevant advice, build and digest answers to helpful questions in an attempt to prepare responses to the Environmental Screening reports. I do encourage interested Members to take individual action and/or participate in the actions of groups formed to respond to the Environmental Screening Review. We must not let these matters divide our Association.

In the interim, web sites of interest may include:

Bala Community Association: [apps.facebook.com/causes/127268?recruiter\\_id=21754433](https://www.facebook.com/causes/127268?recruiter_id=21754433)

Save the Bala Falls: [savethebalafalls.com](http://savethebalafalls.com)

Swift River Energy Limited: [www.balafalls.ca](http://www.balafalls.ca)

My primary focus as your president remains the wholeness and vibrancy of our Association in meeting the needs of all Members.

**Brian McDonald, President**

**Moon River Property Owners' Association, P.O. Box 93, Bala, ON P0C 1A0**

President – Brian McDonald –762-5178 / Immediate Past President – Patricia Arney 762-1900 / Vice-President - Cathy Brown (Heritage Foundation Plant Sale) 416-231-8312 / Secretary – Anna Mallin (Membership) 762-1039, Treasurer – Christine Anderson - 762-3068 / Directors - Bob Bryers (Regatta Chair) 416-707-2342, Jeff Mole 762-2252, Bill Niess (Water Testing) 762-2870, Walter Scott 762-5954 / Committee Chairs – Stewardship, David Sculati 905-338-7488 / Golf Tournament, Glen Wimbush 705-762-3447

[www.mrpoa.org](http://www.mrpoa.org) / [info@mrpoa.org](mailto:info@mrpoa.org)

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## MOON RIVER STEWARDSHIP PLAN MEETING

There will be a general meeting of members concerning the Moon River Stewardship Plan on May 16 at 1:30 PM at the Bala Legion. This is your opportunity to stay involved in our Planning process and to give your input on the issues we face today. During our process we observed that cottaging is an emotional experience. The cottage is often more important to most people than their year round city residence. We are working to make the Moon River a place that we, and the generations who will follow, can enjoy. We need your active attendance so that your feedback, suggestions, and advice can be taken into consideration as we finalize our Plan.

Over the past year, the Stewardship Plan Committee has been at work gathering ideas and developing them into a draft Plan. We learned that the most important issue was the development and redevelopment of cottage country causing stress on our cottage experience. We learned that light pollution, unnecessary tree removal, the loss of wetlands and boating behaviour were all "lightening rod" issues. At the meeting, we will discuss what we have learned so far and describe what additional work needs to be done. Results of our Stakeholder survey will be detailed. The draft recommendations from our Plan will be presented. We need your help to tell us which of the recommendations you feel are on the mark and which ones we have missed or need more work.

Those who attended our first Stakeholder meeting told us that it was the best Moon River meeting they had ever attended. This next meeting will be facilitated by the same person who helped us with our first meeting, our consultant Randy French. We promise to make this one just as interesting and interactive, resulting in a significant improvement to your future cottage experience. Please be there to lend your input.

**David Sculati, Chair**

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## LOST AND FOUND

So – do our *ad hoc* e-mail reports of wandering docks work to reunite them with their owners? Seems they do! Please keep on reporting and send digital photos.

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## JAZZ CRUISE

The Jazz Cruise is becoming a more important event, now with honoraria being paid to back-up musicians for Jack Hutton and Don Edwards, the event's musical stars. It was with some trepidation that we thought it was necessary to establish a separate budget for this event and to test the waters of member support by asking for donations.

Well – the message is absolutely overwhelmingly definite! Members want the Jazz Cruise to continue. So far nearly \$1,000 has been donated in support of the cruise.

Thanks to you all for the overwhelming support!

We are trying to arrange for the event to begin somewhat earlier in the evening and hope to be able to circulate a map of which bays will be visited so that members can plan to enjoy the fun.

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## MOON CHUTES

The Moon Chutes were a frequent topic of comment in the Stewardship Plan Survey and are regularly mentioned at general meetings of the Membership. Concern has been expressed that the Chutes be preserved in their natural state for future generations. Concern has also been expressed about rowdy behavior and damage caused by persons partying or camping on property owned by Ontario Power Generation around the Chutes.

This Spring, Brian McDonald, Sandy Currie, Jeff Mole and David Sculati met with representatives of Ontario Power Generation and the Ontario Provincial Police.

It is hoped that we can soon announce plans for better policing and maintenance of the area. If appropriate, MRPOA may offer assistance in the form, for example, of a yearly clean up effort. (Members are already doing this on a volunteer and sporadic basis.)

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## FIREWORKS

Before setting off fireworks, check for a fire bans. See roadside signs or Twp Website [www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca)

## MUSKOKA HERITAGE AWARDS

Muskoka Heritage Foundation is looking for candidates for Natural Heritage Awards! Each year, the Muskoka Heritage Foundation seeks to recognize and honour individuals and families who voluntarily protect their land through good stewardship. Stewardship, simply put, means taking good care of the land through protection, preservation or restoration. Individuals or families who are doing an excellent job are honoured by the awarding of a Natural Heritage Stewardship Award at the Muskoka Heritage Foundation's Annual General Meeting in October.

At this time, the Muskoka Heritage Foundation is seeking eligible candidates for this year's awards. There are two categories for award recipients: one for shoreline/rural properties and the other for commercial properties. If you or someone you know would be a suitable candidate, you can find more information on the criteria used to evaluate potential properties, as well as nomination forms, on the Muskoka Heritage Foundation website at [www.muskokaheritage.org/natural/shorelineawards.asp](http://www.muskokaheritage.org/natural/shorelineawards.asp). For more information, visit the website at [www.muskokaheritage.org](http://www.muskokaheritage.org) or contact Barb Maddock by phone at (705) 645-7393 or by email at [info@muskokaheritage.org](mailto:info@muskokaheritage.org).

### MRPOA 2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

|                                 |     |        |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Tree Sale (Jaspen Park)         | Sat | May 9  |
| Lake Plan Meeting (Legion)      | Sun | May 17 |
| June Members Meeting (Legion)   | Sat | Jun 6  |
| Meet and Greet (M.R. Lookout)   | Sat | Jul 4  |
| Jazz Cruise (Moon River)        | Sat | Aug 1  |
| Regatta/Pig Roast (Jaspen Park) | Sun | Aug 2  |
| Golf Tournament                 | Sat | Aug 8  |
| MRPOA AGM (Legion)              | Sat | Sept 5 |

## MOON WATER SAMPLING

Some 17 volunteers will once again be sampling and analysing Moon River Water every two weeks, starting on the May long weekend. We hope the results will be as dull and uninteresting as last year! In other words, sampling in 2008 indicated no concern with our water quality. Results of analysis for total coliforms, fecal coliforms and water clarity will continue to form part of the reports of the Muskoka Lakes Association's Water Quality Initiative (see [www.mla.on.ca](http://www.mla.on.ca) and click on "water quality"). Phosphorous sampling is carried separately, as a part of the Ontario Lake Partner program and results are posted on the Ontario Government's Lake Partner website [www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/lakepartner/index.php](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/lakepartner/index.php).

## MRPOA GOLF SHIRTS

Members have expressed interest in purchasing golf shirts with the MRPOA logo. Christine Anderson will be displaying samples at the June Members' meeting so you can check out sizes, colours, etc. Cost \$28. Contact Christine for more information.

## DONATIONS FOR REGATTA/GOLF

If you would like to donate an item for the Regatta Raffle or the Golf Tournament prizes, please contact Bob Bryers 416-707-2342 (Regatta) or Muriel Mudgett 705 762-4142 (Golf)

## JUNE MEMBERS' MEETING

The June Members' meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6 at the Bala Legion at 9:30 a.m. We will update you on events and hope to update you about cooperation with OPG and the OPP concerning stewardship of the OPG lands at the Moon Chutes.

# 2009 MRPOA Regatta Event Schedule

Sunday, Aug 2, 2009 - Jaspén Park

| Event | Time       | Contestants  | Age        | Event                           |
|-------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------------|
|       | 11:00 am   |              |            | Registration                    |
| 1     | 11:00      | Open         | Any Age    | Long Distance Swim              |
| 2     | 11:30      | Boys & Girls | 10 & Under | Treasure Hunt                   |
| 3     | 12:00 noon | Open Mixed   | Any Age    | Canoe Race - White Birch Island |
| 4     | 12:05      | Boys         | 7 & Under  | Swim & Run (Lifebelts Allowed)  |
| 5     | 12:10      | Girls        | 7 & Under  | Swim & Run (Lifebelts Allowed)  |
| * 6   | 12:15      | Boys         | 8 To 10    | Swim & Run                      |
| * 7   | 12:20      | Girls        | 8 To 10    | Swim & Run                      |
| * 8   | 12:25      | Boys         | 11 To 13   | Swim & Run                      |
| * 9   | 12:30      | Girls        | 11 To 13   | Swim & Run                      |
| * 10  | 12:35      | Boys         | 14 To 16   | Swim & Run                      |
| * 11  | 12:40      | Girls        | 14 To 16   | Swim & Run                      |
| 12    | 12:45      | Boys & Girls | 4 & Under  | Running Race                    |
| 13    | 12:50      | Boys         | 5 To 7     | Running Race                    |
| 14    | 12:55      | Girls        | 5 To 7     | Running Race                    |
| 15    | 1:00       | Boys & Girls | 4 & Under  | Shoe Toss                       |
| 16    | 1:05       | Boys & Girls | 5 To 7     | Shoe Toss                       |
| * 17  | 1:10       | Boys         | 8 To 10    | Running Race                    |
| * 18  | 1:15       | Girls        | 8 To 10    | Running Race                    |
| * 19  | 1:20       | Boys         | 11 To 13   | Running Race                    |
| * 20  | 1:25       | Girls        | 11 To 13   | Running Race                    |
| 21    | 1:30       | Boys & Girls | 14 To 16   | Balloon Toss                    |
| 22    | 1:35       | Adults Mixed | 17 & Over  | Balloon Toss                    |
| 23    | 1:40       | Boys & Girls | 8 To 13    | Balloon Toss                    |
| 24    | 1:45       | Boys & Girls | 7 & Under  | Balloon Toss/Roll               |
| * 25  | 1:50       | Boys & Girls | 8 To 10    | Double Canoe                    |
| * 26  | 1:55       | Boys & Girls | 11 To 13   | Double Canoe                    |
| * 27  | 2:00       | Boys & Girls | 14 To 16   | Mixed Double Canoe              |
| 28    | 2:05       | Adults Mixed | 17 & Over  | Canoe Race                      |
| * 29  | 2:10       | Boys & Girls | 8 To 10    | Hurry Scurry Fours              |
| * 30  | 2:15       | Boys & Girls | 11 To 13   | Hurry Scurry Fours              |
| * 31  | 2:20       | Boys & Girls | 14 To 16   | Hurry Scurry Fours              |
| 32    | 2:25       | Adults Mixed | 17 & Over  | Hurry Scurry Fours              |
| * 33  | 2:30       | Boys & Girls | 14 To 16   | In & Out Of Canoe               |
| 34    | 2:35       | Adults Mixed | 17 & Over  | In & Out Of Canoe               |
| 35    | 2:40       | Boys & Girls | 16 & Under | Land Ski Race                   |
| 36    | 2:45       | Adults Mixed | 17 & Over  | Land Ski Race                   |
|       | 2:55       |              |            | Award Presentations             |

\*These events contribute points towards the overall winners

The Pig/Corn Roast will be held at Jaspén Park at 6:00 pm.