



## MRPOA River Ripples Spring 2008

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Could have been the snow. Might have been the rain. I don't know, but look at the mess we're in. Wasn't that a winter!!!

If we don't laugh, we might cry because this has been a record breaking flood year. The week of April 20, in spite of all the water, water everywhere, Muskoka was in a high fire risk. Both flood and fire warnings are posted on the Township of Muskoka Lakes website [www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca).

**Lost and Found.** We've kept you posted on lost and found articles, but there will be a significant need for major clean up. Hopefully, everyone will rescue and report wayward items as they surface. An e-mail to [info@mrpoa.org](mailto:info@mrpoa.org) will reach our ever vigilant, and often out-scouting-in-her-kayak, secretary, *Anna Mallin*.

**Water Sampling.** Our Aqua Man, *Brian McDonald*, and his crew will be out on the water again this year taking samples for our water testing program. *Anna Mallin* will continue to sample for phosphorus testing. We are delighted that Moon Water volunteer, *Linda Newmann*, has come forward to be trained as a Team leader for the water analysis. *Linda* and *Brian* will share the duties this year and *Linda* will take full charge next year.

**Events.** Our calendar is posted at [www.mrpoa.org](http://www.mrpoa.org). June 7 is the Members Meeting at the Bala Legion starting at 9:30 a.m. We urge you to attend AND BRING NEIGHBOURS.

This meeting will be the launch of the Lake Plan process for which we received Trillium Funding. This process must involve all the property owners along Moon River below Bala and above Ragged Rapids, so we will welcome guests at this presentation. *David Sculati* is chairing the committee of *Carol & Doug Ball, Bryden Currie, Dave MacIntosh, Bob McTavish, Dodd Patterson, Bob Pozzobon, Walter Scott and Marlene Sculati*. *Anna Mallin* will provide administrative support from the MRPOA Board. *Randy French* of French Planning Services will be our consultant facilitating sessions and providing support. BUT THIS IS OUR PLAN for our special piece of the river and it will require input from all.

The Meet and Greet will be held on Saturday, July 5 between 3-5pm at the Moon River Lookout. Enjoy the Lookout's excellent catering and catching up with your neighbours.

*David Stoddart* and *Bob Bryers* are organizing this year's Regatta for August 3. *Jeff Mole* is seeking assistance in setting up the corn/pig roast again this year. *Brian McDonald* has also agreed to assist *Don Edwards* in another wonderful JAZZ Cruise - date TBA. *Glen Wimbush and Muriel Mudgett* will organize the ever growing golf tournament August 9.

August 30 will be the AGM. This is my last year as President of MRPOA and the board is seeking new members in these exciting and busy times. Please consider volunteering for this very important organization.

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

President – *Patricia Arney* 762-1900 / Immediate Past President – *Jeff Mole* 762-2252 / Secretary – *Anna Mallin* (Membership) 762-1039  
Treasurer – *Christine Anderson* - 762-3068 / Directors - *Cathy Brown* 416-231-8312, *Bob Bryers* (Regatta Chair) 416-707-2342,  
*Brian McDonald* (Water Testing, Jazz Cruise Chair) – 762-5178, *Dave Stoddart* 762-3505 / Committee Chairs – Stewardship, *David Sculati*  
905-829-0055 / Golf Tournament , *Glen Wimbush* 705-762-3447

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

**Power Generation.** SREL Swift River Energy Ltd are continuing to investigate their options on the power station for the north Bala Dam. The recent drilling near Purk's Place was part of the process to find a more acceptable location for the plant. MRPOA will keep you posted and there may be public meetings this summer.

**Twp News.** Township of Muskoka Lakes introduced the new CAO last year at our June meeting and this year we'll welcome *Walt Schmidt* the new CAO. John Cosgrove returned to private sector in Alberta. Township also has a new treasurer and hopefully by the time of this mailing a 2008 budget. Check out the Township's website. Bala's elusive streetscape plans are progressing. In fairness, this is not due to Township's failure to act or budget for the work rather the difficulty of finding a plan to suit all the businesses. Bala Falls Road will be given a facelift on the rail side soon and work will begin on 169 between Gordon and River Streets in Sept. On April 30, the Economic Development Strategy was launched. This is the follow up to the Business Expansion and Retention Study. There are many recommendations in the report and some are actually moving forward. There is a new 'staff' house in Bala. Township will be monitoring it closely. Already there is one new medical service in Port Carling, Gravenhurst chiropractic clinic, Drs Mekis and McIntosh have opened a clinic. On May 24 at the Port Carling Community Centre, there will be an opportunity for public input into the draft Official Plan amendments. Little change is proposed for the waterfront but some interesting ones for our urban centres. Check out the website [www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca)

**Heritage Foundation.** I hope many of you took advantage of Muskoka Heritage Foundation Tree Sale, served this year by *Jeff Mole and Cathy Brown*. Please visit the Heritage Foundation's website [www.muskokaheritage.org](http://www.muskokaheritage.org) This provides information about the foundation, Muskoka Watershed Council and the Land Trust.

**Well Testing/Water Quality.** New this year is the Well Aware Program, a free inspection of your well. For more information visit the Muskoka Watershed Council section of the MHF website or call Kathy at MHF 645-7393. The District website [www.muskoka.on.ca](http://www.muskoka.on.ca) has the Lake System Health Plan and a link to [www.muskokawaterweb.ca](http://www.muskokawaterweb.ca).

MRPOA is facing a very busy and exciting year. PLEASE consider assisting as we move forward to develop our vision of the future of our Moon River.

**Patricia Arney, President**

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## LAKE PLAN

Members and non-members alike should plan to attend our upcoming meeting on June 7 to get up-to-date on the progress our Lake Planning committee is making. We received the grant we applied for from the Trillium foundation. This will allow us to hire a consultant to assist us in completing most of our public consultation work this summer. In addition to describing our unique geographical characteristics, water quality, native animals and plants, the plan will include sections on land uses, buildings, septic systems, boating capacity, noise and light pollution, public access points, open spaces, recreational areas, development potential and capacity as well as specific policies and standards for development.

We know that your cottage and the Moon River are important and special to you and your family. This is an opportunity for you to voice your concerns and have them addressed. Find out how you can get involved and make your views known during the planning process. Contact the committee's Chair, David Sculati 905-829-0055/705-762-5764.

**David Sculati, Chair**

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**MEMBERS' MEETING**

**BALA LEGION**

**Non-Members Welcome!**

**Saturday, June 7**

**9:30 a.m. – Noon**

**To discuss "Lake Plan" for the Moon River**

**MEET & GREET**

**MOON RIVER LOOKOUT**

**Saturday, July 5**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**\$10**

**Tickets available at June 7 Members' Meeting  
or from Patricia Arney at the Balacade or at  
the door**

*Please purchase tickets in advance so we can estimate  
numbers of attendees*

**REGATTA HELP NEEDED**

We need help collecting donations for Regatta prizes and for the raffle during the first week of July. Please contact Dave Stoddart [dstoddart@neptunetg.com](mailto:dstoddart@neptunetg.com) / 762-3505 or Bob Bryers [bob.bryers@cfib.ca](mailto:bob.bryers@cfib.ca) / 416-707-2342 if you can help.

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**NEW/MORE BLOOD NEEDED  
FOR THE BOARD!**

To keep up MRPOA's present pace and range of activities – we need help! We need some younger (or at least fresher) participants, interested in the future of our River community and interested in helping with our various events. Come to a board meeting! Help with the Regatta or the Meet & Greet, Membership, Newsletter, or, or, or.....

Contact Patricia Arney (762-1900) or Anna Mallin (762-1039) for more information.

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**MRPOA'S NEWEST NAVIGATIONAL AID**

Ever vigilant to enhance boating safety, MRPOA is pleased to announce the establishment of a new navigational channel in the Moon River! The McTavish/Trussler Channel, located in a bay on the north side of the Narrows, is limited to shipping of tonnage less than 1 lb, with a draft not exceeding 4 inches. Speeds must be kept below 1 very small knot.

On a more serious note, the Coast Guard has been notified of its wandering buoy, which normally bobs about above the Bala Dams.



# 2008 MRPOA Regatta Event Schedule

Sunday, Aug 3, 2008 - 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.