



## MRPOA River Ripples Fall 2006

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all who are not so fortunate as to live on the Moon year round, I have to share that this fall you missed little, although I understand weather wasn't much better where most of you are either. All the rain has caused some increase in water levels, although somewhat later than previously experienced (the town dock was accessible during Cranberry Festival, if anyone dared venture out on the waters).

On a more positive note, MRPOA has enjoyed a wonderful year. For the first time, we were represented at the Community organizations presentation for the Communities in Bloom judges. We had a successful June meeting, great regatta and golf tournament and a well attended AGM. The board regrets John Baird's decision to step down (to return to work!!), but welcomes Bob Bryers as a new member.

Your board would appreciate feedback on the introduction of a speaker to the AGM agenda and any suggestions of another topic of interest. Certainly, David Fox-Revett will be a difficult act to follow.

Our treasurer, Christine Anderson, has assured us that with our membership fee increase, we should remain solvent for another year or so. Many thanks to Christine - keeping a volunteer board financially organized is never an easy task - someone always loses receipts!

The Water Quality Initiative water testing program is on track and no surprises in our results. Brian McDonald has been a dedicated organizer

and trainer for this undertaking. Thanks to all who have assisted. We've also participated in the Lake Partner Program (at no cost) and it will be interesting to see how the results compare with those of the Water Quality Initiative.

If anyone has an interest in any of the other 'water quality' programs available, there are plenty of opportunities for doing simple 'scientific' stuff (stuff kids love) which can improve our knowledge base of the river habitat - benthic and lichen study programs are two that are already in place in several other Muskoka areas.

Anna Mallin, in addition to all her other commitments, has agreed to work on the organization of the road captains. We have also had a good response for volunteers to assist with our events. But if anyone wishes to join in contact David Stoddart, our board chair of events.

One event that has not been undertaken, despite expressed interest, is the sailing race. In my discussions with sailors, it has been suggested that a sailing day event be planned for a Saturday in August (when apparently the winds are more favourable) and have a cavalcade down the river instead of a 'race'. If anyone is interested in taking that one on, it may also regenerate the Jazz Cruise to follow along.

I am hoping that a 'meet and greet' for MRPOA members will be supported for Saturday, July 7 3:00 - 5:00 pm at the Bala Bay Inn to provide an opportunity for our various groups to meet. In working with MRPOA, I have become increas-

ingly aware that there are different folk who attend different events and this is intended to be an opportunity to mingle - no tasks, some announcements, good company. This will not replace our June organization meeting.

Township assures me that the new dock at the River Street launch will be completed this year with little disruption. Giant Hogweed was removed, unfortunately, it has regrown in at least one area, but I am confident that it will be eradicated with our perseverance and township cooperation.

In recent conversations with John Wildman, Swift River Energy Ltd, (the principal who met with Jeff Mole and me to review the project) I have learned that the Standard Offer Proposal is 'very favourable' for SREL, and they are confident that they will be proceeding with the project. Once the contract is secured, Swift River Energy Ltd will be operated by Horizon Power. Wildman did assure us, however, that he would continue to communicate with our organization and that SREL is very sensitive to our concerns about the impact of building a power generation plant at our north falls. It will be imperative that we have ongoing communication and input in the Environmental Assessment process. The Standing Advisory Committee of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan is meeting this November and I am planning to request that MNR be asked to clarify the process for the Plan amendments which Swift River indicated would be required in their submission.

The Township plans to invest significantly in our Emergency Services, fire halls and vehicles in particular. These improved services will benefit all, not just improving our safety but possibly decreasing our insurance rates. MRPOA has announced the Municipal by-law changes to facilitate fire fighters/rescue workers use of pontoon boats when required.

*Patricia Arney, President*

---

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

We are pleased to report that Susan Pryke has been returned as Mayor of the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Mary Grady will be our District Councilor and Patricia Arney and Diane Davidson will be our Township Councilors. Congratulations, particularly to Patricia, on her first foray into elected municipal politics!

---

## MOON RIVER CODE

As more people are spending more time on the River problems of noise, light pollution and the safety of boaters and swimmers have become increasingly worrisome.

At the September AGM members expressed interest in creating a Moon River Code which might form the basis of discussion with persons who are negatively affecting the pleasurable or safe use of the River. The Code might also be included in a package of information to be handed to cottage renters.

**With the help of a number of members, we've created a draft a *Moon River Code* (printed on the back of this Newsletter). The draft is also posted on our website.**

Please let us know your suggestions to improve the Code. Please also feel free to copy it and use it! The final text will be available in the Spring.

Thanks to past president, Jeff Mole, for suggesting the idea!

---

## DRY FIRE HYDRANTS

The Township is facilitating opportunities for neighbourhood groups to band together to install in 'dry hydrants' (to draw water from the Moon River in the event of a fire) if there is a property with appropriate access. Proximity to a dry hydrant may reduce insurance rates. Please contact Patricia Arney for more information.

---

## WATER HAZARD MAP

Thanks to the many who have commented on the location of water hazards for the draft Water Hazard Map. The map is now posted on the Website. This is a work in progress! Please review it and let Anna Mallin know of anything that should be added or improved. Note that this is definitely a “use at your own risk” document to assist boaters to learn for themselves where are the danger spots.

---

## 2007 EVENT SCHEDULE

We’ve added an event to our schedule of 2007 events – a “Meet and Greet” wine and cheese social event on Saturday June 9 at the Bala Bay Inn to bring together all of the members of the Association.

**Saturday, June 9 – June meeting**  
**Saturday, July 7 – Meet and Greet**  
**Sunday, August 5 – Regatta and  
Corn Roast**  
**Saturday, August 11 (date to be  
confirmed– Golf Tournament**  
**Saturday, September 1 – AGM**

### BALA EVENTS

**Friday, November 24, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**  
Tree lighting and carol sing at the Community Centre.

**Saturday, December 2, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. –**  
Bala’s Trek to Bethlehem. Bala’s streets are transformed into a biblical village where visitors journey back in time to experience the first Christmas. Trek starts at Community Centre.

### BALA ### LICENCE PLATES

Soon to be available – contact Jeff Mole  
[jjmole@hotmail.com](mailto:jjmole@hotmail.com) - 705-762-BALA

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please renew your MRPOA Membership for 2007 using the enclosed form. If you have already paid for 2007 this is noted on the form.

**Regardless of whether or not you have already paid, please once again sign the declaration consenting that MRPOA not have a financial audit for 2007 and consenting to including your name in the MRPOA directory.** Also note the question re membership in the Muskoka Lakes Association. MRPOA is a part of the MLA Water Quality Initiative and receives a rebate on its water testing fees for each dual member.

---

### 2007 DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Christine Anderson – Director and Treasurer  
Patricia Arney – Director and President  
Bob Bryers - Director  
Anna Mallin – Director and Secretary, Chair, Membership Committee  
Brian McDonald – Director, Chair of Water Sampling Committee  
Jeff Mole – Director and Immediate Past President  
Dave Stoddart – Director, Chair of Events Committee

### INSURANCE AND SNOW

A member has pointed out that many insurance policies do not cover seasonal residences for snow damage. You may wish to check your policies.

# MOON RIVER CODE (draft)

**Please help us promote safety, preserve our water quality and maintain good neighbourly relations ....**

## **Swimming & Boating Safety**

Boaters - please keep at least 25 feet away from docks when moving at speed and reduce speed to *dead slow* near docks and swimming areas. Cottagers – please ensure that floating water toys and swimming rafts don't impair boating safety. Water skiing and tube boat drivers - please ensure the safety of swimmers and boaters around you.

## **Water Quality**

- Don't feed the waterfowl - they foul our beaches and water and help produce "swimmer's itch".
- Please – no washing in the River! Even phosphate-free soap degrades the water quality.
- Cottagers - please plant or preserve a natural a vegetative buffer along the shoreline to help filter water flowing from your property into the River
- Boaters – please ensure that fuel doesn't spill into the water

## **Noise**

- **Amplified Sound.** Please control amplified sound so that it can't be heard beyond the bounds of your property.
- **Nuisance Noise.** Report excessive daytime noise to the OPP (1-888-310-1122) for immediate action when noise has reached the level of a public nuisance. After 11:00 p.m. phone the Township of Muskoka Lakes By-Law enforcement officer – 765-3156.
- **Boat Noise.** Boaters, Tubers, PWC users - please don't circle repeatedly in one area.
- **Boat Launch Areas.** Please be mindful of neighbours living next to the boat launch. Use the area only for boat launching. Be quiet if you use the boat launch after dark.

## **Dock and Shoreline Preservation**

Wakes can damage shorelines and docks. Boaters - please ensure that wakes are appropriate to the distance from shore. Reduce speed to produce *no wake* in narrow areas. Travel far enough from shore to produce minimal wake elsewhere.

## **Lighting**

Please ensure that light does not shine beyond your property boundaries. Please join all Muskokans in promoting a dark-sky-friendly environment.

## **Wildlife**

Please help avoid attracting nuisance bears and other unwanted animals. Keep garbage in bear-proof containers, clean your BBQs and don't leave pet food outside.

## **Cottage Rentals**

Please ensure that all cottage renters have the necessary Pleasure Craft Operators Card before allowing use of your power boats. Renters – please respect the Moon River Code.