



The Loon's Call

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2014

President's Message by Jonathan Hutcheon

I hope you enjoy the summer newsletter of the Gull and Silver Lakes Residents Association. I'm very pleased to represent you and your interests as your president and continue to work with the board of directors on issues that impact you and your families.

I have spent the last two years continuing to strengthen our relationships with key partners like the Town, the Muskoka Lakes Association, and other lake associations in close proximity to us. These relationships are important as we need to support and stand united with other organizations that have common interests. Together, we can invoke change in the municipalities we live and play in to make it better for people for years to come.

While I am enjoying continuing to work with the Board of Directors and our partner associations, when I originally agreed to stand for nomination as president, I said I would do a two year term. I am nearing the end of that two year term and have said to the board that I will stand for election again this year, but it will be my final year. The reason for this, is that for us to continue to be effective we need new blood with fresh ideas and new, creative approaches to engaging out members. **That being said, we need a successor and we need people to step up to do it.** Without it I fear that the effectiveness of the association will suffer in the future. It's an important job and one I will miss!

In this issue, you'll find information regarding our upcoming Annual General Meeting, information about the on-going Bugs in the Mud initiative, and some information regarding the water quality of our lake to name a few. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their continued hard work on all of the active issues. Also a special thanks to Pat Catleugh, Greg & Roger Bertrand, and Doug Wallis for their continued assistance with the Bugs in the Mud initiative and Water Quality Testing. We really do have a dedicated group of individuals who represent the lakes extremely well.

Finally, our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **July 19th 2014** in a new and exciting venue this year **at the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre** starting with a meet and great at **9am** and the official meeting will start at 9:30am. I hope to see many of you there and I look forward to meeting you in person.

As always, if you do have any concerns, questions, or would like to find out how you can take a more active role in the future of your lake please feel free to email me at gullsilverlakes@gmail.com or feel free to flag me down on the lake (I'm usually riding a red/white Sea Doo), we love to hear from our members! Have a safe and happy summer!



Jonathan Hutcheon, President GSLRA

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RENEW YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP!

The insert attached in the Spring/Summer Newsletter is the 2014 Membership Renewal form. If you have not paid for your 2014 membership please fill out the form and mail your check to the address provided. Please ensure to include your email address so we can keep you up to date!

We will also be accepting payments via cash or cheque at the Annual General Meeting. However if you want to avoid the line up send for form in now!!

We need everyone's support and participation to make the Association effective in representing all of our interests.

Donna McLean

GSLRA Annual General Meeting - New Location!

July 19th, 9am - Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre



Upcoming Municipal Election by Jonathan Hutcheon

On **Monday October 27th, 2014** the residents of the Municipality of Gravenhurst will go to the polls to vote in a new Town Council and Mayor.

Did you know that even as a seasonal resident of Gravenhurst that you can vote in the election? You can! Here is how.

To be eligible to vote you must be at least 18 years of age, be a Canadian Citizen, reside or be an owner or tenant of land in Gravenhurst, or the spouse of an owner or tenant and not be prohibited from voting under Section 17(3) or Section 80 of the *Municipal Elections Act*

Voting Process:

The voting process for the Town of Gravenhurst will be conducted through a **vote-by-mail process** and utilize electronic counting devices. On voting day, those who have not returned their voter package may process their vote at the Town Office up until the close of the election (8:00 p.m.). All electors wishing to vote must present identification confirming their identity and place of residence in order to receive a ballot. If an elector who is on the Voters' List does not have acceptable identification, they may make a statutory declaration that they are the person on the Voters' List in order to receive a ballot. For more information visit: <http://www.gravenhurst.ca/en/yourtownhall/municipalelection.asp>

Are you on the voters list?

To check, visit voterlookup.ca to confirm and update your elector details. Have your say. Log on today.

How is the Lake Association Involved?

Members of the Board of Directors are working in conjunction with other lake associations and the Muskoka Lakes Association to provide a review and grade for each candidate running for office. A committee has been formed to develop a set of questions and an associated rating scale. Each candidate will be interviewed with the same set of questions and their answers will be compared to the rating scale. Candidates who have answers that align best with the MLA's will be assigned a higher score and therefore receive a better rating. To be clear, we are not recommending or endorsing candidates, we are simply offering a review on each candidate and how they best align to the values that are important to residents. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to contribute to the questions, please contact Jonathan Hutcheon gullsilverlakes@gmail.com

Dog Days of Summer - Pet Safety at the Cottage by Trinela Hutcheon

In Part 1 of our pet safety series, we will discuss water safety and the use of pet lifejackets:

Is your dog a swimmer like my golden? Be sure to remove any slip collars/choke chains before they head into the lake. These collars can become caught and inadvertently choke your pet. While plenty of dogs are great swimmers you should equip your dog with a **well-fitted life jacket** for them to wear (especially when they are in a boat), or around open water unsupervised. Even the strongest swimmers can get into trouble fast, but lifejackets are an effective way to manage the risks. Always rehearse with your pet how to get in and out of the water (at a safe location) and make sure they are confident swimmers before you leave them unsupervised. Remember that if the lake is too cold for you, it is too cold for your pet. Take special care to supervise your pet in the spring, fall and winter to ensure they don't accidentally take a swim. Lifejackets are available at retailers like Algonquin Outfitters - Swifty's Surf Shop in Bracebridge and the Muskoka

Did your email address change?

Email us: gullsilverlakes@gmail.com

Bugs in the Mud - Part 3 by Jonathan Hutcheon

Part 3 of Bugs in the Mud was completed in August 2012 with the details presented in the July newsletter.

Fast forward August 2013...a set of brave volunteers from around the lake converged on my cottage on a beautiful summer morning to do the impossible. Count bugs!

Along with our enthusiastic Biomonitoring Technician (a.k.a Senior Bug Guy) Dylan from the District of Muskoka, we collected buckets of mud and water from Maple Cove. Our volunteers who included: Joan & Doug Thompson, Debbie Stephens, Penny Bonner, Barb & Sara Jackman, and Pat & George Catleugh positioned themselves around my picnic table tweezers, a sort of turkey baster thing in hand, and magnifying glasses. They were each given a scoop of 'material' and told to go at it. Anything that moved in their dish was carefully and thoughtfully plucked out and presented to Dylan for analysis.

Dylan brought his own microscope so he could get a better look at what everyone was finding and then he jotted them down for the report. All specimens, mud/muck, and water were then returned to the lake with all the information going back to the District of Muskoka for further analysis.

The results from the district indicate that Gull Lake is right on track with the Muskoka Average pertaining to percent of EOT (Mayflies, Dragonflies, Caddisflies) which are intolerant to pollution, and Richness (the biodiversity found within the sample, in this case the more the better). The percentage of Chironimids (invertebrate named a Midge or more commonly Blood Worm which are extremely tolerant to pollution) is lower than the average which is good, it shows that we have a healthy lake where species intolerant of pollution can thrive.

Dylan also mentioned in his report "we see that this environment [on Gull Lake] is suitable for benthic invertebrates who are intolerant to pollution, and though we see benthic invertebrates who are tolerant to pollution, this number is still very low (lower than many lakes in Muskoka). You will also see fluctuations from year to year. This is quite common, but with long-term monitoring, those jumps in numbers become less and less common."

We are already preparing this summer for **Bugs in the Mud 4** which will take place on **Tuesday August 12th 2014, 9am, at Pat & George Catleugh's cottage (porch near Pinedale)**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact gullsilverlakes@gmail.com or Pat directly at 705-687-1429.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their contributions to this important lake health study!



Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

- Aquatic invertebrates (AI) are common indicators to determine and monitor the health or condition of lakes and streams.
- Different species of AI have different sensitivities to environmental changes such as pollution or habitat alteration.
- AI live between 1 and 3 years and are in constant contact with lake sediments.

Initial Data Summary

- **2011** - Total: 357 insects – highest count for scuds, then sow bugs & mites. 1 crayfish was released
- **2012** - Total: 371 insects – highest count for scuds (fairly shrimp or amphipoda), mayflies and sow bugs.
- **2013** - Total: 314 insects - highest count for sow bugs, fairy shrimp, mayflies, and dragonflies.
- Complete Data is available at: "Muskoka Water Web" website, under "Biological Monitoring Data" <http://muskokawaterweb.ca/images/biological/GullBenthicSheet.pdf>

Need information about the association?

Check us out online: www.gull-and-silver-lakes.ca

The official newsletter of
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Volunteers!? by Jonathan Hutcheon

For the last couple of issues, I've written an article entitled '*We Need You*' the goal being that maybe we could entice you to join the board and help us out with some of our projects. After some reflection over the last year, I've realized that joining the board may sound daunting some people. Having your name on the web site, having people potentially calling you, and officially being responsible for something does sound a little scary and let's face it we're all busy.

This all being said, this year we're not asking for new board members, what we desperately need is some volunteers who want to work in conjunction with a board member on initiatives that are near and dear to their hearts. Take the garbage and parking situation at Hewitt St, the Hwy 11 Realignment, or an initiative like Elizabeth Palatics took on (and won) the Gull Lake Waterfront. We have over 200 cottages between the two lakes, which means we have a lot of capable people who could help us make a difference for everyone involved. If just a few of you volunteered it would help us so much!

Want to chat about it? Email me directly at gullsilverlakes@gmail.com

Gull & Silver Lakes Residents' Association Attend the Annual General Meeting!

9:00 am, Saturday July 19, 2014

New Location!

**Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre,
275 Steamship Bay Rd., Gravenhurst**

Come one, come all to the GSLRA 2014 AGM!

We will be gathering at 9:00am for coffee and snacks to meet and chat with friends and neighbours. The formal meeting will start promptly at 9:30am. Join us to hear about and discuss:

- The environment and water quality of our lakes
- Financial Update
- Updates from the town
- The board answers your questions
- The Election of new Board of Directors and President

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members and non-members alike are all are invited to attend! It's a great chance to find out what's going on and meet your neighbours!



Questions? Comments? Want to help out?

Email us: gullsilverlakes@gmail.com