



# ***SUNNY LAKE NEWSLETTER***

Sunny Lake Cottagers' & Ratepayers' Association

June 2012

## ***WELCOME BACK!***

To the cottagers on our beautiful lake, we hope you had a great winter. To both residents and cottagers, your executive wishes you another safe and enjoyable summer on the lake with your friends, family and neighbours!

## ***LOONS***

The question asked more frequently now is "Where are the loons? We used to see them on our lake all the time".

Bird Studies Canada(BSC) annually undertakes the "Canadian Lakes Loon Survey" with the help of volunteers. During the months of May, June, July & August observations of loons are recorded and reported to BSC in September. Your president has been doing this for Sunny Lake since 2006. The numbers have been dwindling and last year there were no observations at all for July and August.

BSC lists things you can do to minimize the threats loons face and encourage them to make their home here. Most applicable to our lake:

- Keep your shoreline natural. Reduce the size of your lawn, and preserve natural vegetation.

- Pump the septic tank regularly, use phosphate-free products, and avoid gas and oil spills.
- Use sensitive boating practices. Steer clear of loons and use binoculars to watch loons from a distance.
- Slow down in shallow areas and near the shore.
- Make sure that water level manipulations are timed to occur outside of the nesting season. Nesting loons are most sensitive to water level changes in May & June.

## ***LAKE WATER QUALITY***

After three years of testing as partners in the Water Quality Initiative (WQI) of the Muskoka Lakes Association, a solid basis for future comparisons has been established. Testing will resume when deemed warranted by the Association.

## ***GUIDELINES FOR RENTERS, GUESTS & OWNERS ALIKE***

Your association's Board has decided to reissue last year's guidelines. If we all adhere to them we will all get maximum enjoyment out of our stay at Sunny Lake. The guidelines are attached to this newsletter. Please post them in a prominent location for guests and renters to see.

## ***DUES FOR 2012-13***

Dues remain at \$20 per cottage this year. Please pay your dues to the person who delivers your Newsletter. If you were not at your cottage/home at that time, you may bring your dues to our Treasurer, Marina Hoekstra, by road or boat, or mail a cheque to PO Box 545, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1T8.

## ***SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS***

1. It's **bear season** again! Bears have been seen on Sunny Lake Road and Tomingas Road. Please remember to put garbage away at night, clean outdoor BBQ grills, and warn visitors and renters. Bears who cause significant damage or are an immediate threat, should be reported to the MNR at 1-866-514-2327.
2. **Swimming across the lake** is great exercise, but also dangerous! Boat operators may not see you or you could get a cramp in the middle of the lake. You must be accompanied by a canoe, paddle boat, etc. And make sure your renters & guests adhere too.
3. Please follow the **Burning Regulations** for open fires. An Information Sheet from the Gravenhurst Volunteer Fire Department is attached to this Newsletter.
4. A **boating license** is now mandatory. So please make sure you have your "Card" with you when you are boating. If you can't produce the Card when checked on the water, the fine is \$250. Of course you must also have the safety equipment required for your vessel. Failure to carry the required safety equipment also results in a fine. The OPP were on our lake in 2011!
5. **Boating safety equipment** is of vital importance. Transport Canada's "Small Vessel Regulations" document the

minimum required equipment which vary by vessel length and type. For more details see Transport Canada's "Safe Boating Guide" or go to [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)

6. **Boat wakes** can cause erosion and swamp or capsize other boats. They can also damage moored boats and affect the use and enjoyment of docks. Please be aware of your wake and ensure it does not impact others or the environment.

## ***POWER OUTAGES***

If you want to report an outage or require outage status information, contact Veridian Connections at 1-866-579-6819.

## ***LAKE ASSOCIATION CONTACT***

Enno Hoekstra is currently your President. He can be reached at 705-687-1146.

## ***OUR COUNCILLOR'S REPORT***

Attached is an update on happenings around the Town of Gravenhurst from our Ward 4 Councillor, Randy Jorgensen. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact him.

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## ***SUNNY LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Corn Roast***

**SATURDAY, July 28  
12:30 PM**

At

**Donna Hume & Denis Butcher  
1120 Tomingas Road**

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**Note: This year is an election year. If you would like to serve on the Board of the Association, please contact Enno Hoekstra prior to the meeting.**