

The purpose of the Lake of Bays Association is to promote, maintain and enhance a clean, healthy and natural environment, a well-serviced community and a safe, peaceful Lake of Bays.

Lake of Bays Aids Fish Stock in Mary Lake

by Stephen Scholten, Fisheries Biologist, Ministry of Natural Resources



Eggs being stripped from Lake of Bays lake trout

Lake of Bays is making a valuable donation to neighbouring Mary Lake. Staff from the Bracebridge office of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) collected lake trout eggs and adult whitefish this fall as part of an effort to rehabilitate populations in Mary Lake.

Mary Lake once had self-sustaining populations of both species but they declined for a number of reasons so a rehabilitation strategy was drawn up last year. One of its key components is to use local sources of fish for stocking as they are adapted to local conditions and may be more likely to reproduce in Mary Lake than stocks from distant lakes that are available through MNR's fish hatchery system. Lake of Bays was chosen as the donor lake because it has healthy populations of lake trout and whitefish and it is close to Mary Lake.

In October, nets were set at a previously surveyed lake trout spawning area. Fish

that were ready to spawn were held in temporary holding pens until an adequate number of fish were caught. In an operation that went well into the night, eggs were stripped from six different females, then divided into different lots and fertilized with different males to maximize genetic diversity. The use of a private dock close to the spawning area was greatly appreciated. A small piece of tissue was collected from each fish. It may be used for future genetic analysis to determine the success of the project.

The next day the eggs were delivered to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) fish hatchery. The eggs will be hatched and the resulting fry nurtured until they are a year old, at which time they will be released into Mary Lake during the spring of 2011. The HHOA hatchery is operated by volunteers with support from the Minden MNR office. The hatchery does its own local egg

collection of 'Haliburton Gold' lake trout, for stocking to their local lakes.

The hatchery is open to tours for the public. Why not drive to Haliburton on a *continued on page 3*

SAVE THIS DATE
Lake of Bays Association
Annual General Meeting
Saturday July 10
Baysville Community Centre
9:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Norman Yan
Dorset Environmental Science
Centre and York University

Canadian ecosystems are currently challenged by many local, regional and global environmental stressors including the introduction of invasive species, climate change and ozone depletion. Dr. Yan's interest is quantifying the effects of these and other man-made stressors on the life within Canadian Shield lakes. The guru of water quality in our watershed, Dr. Yan is back at Lake of Bays by popular demand as a guest speaker.

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President's Message

by Mary Neal, President, Lake of Bays Association

We've had a great winter! There was enough snow for most recreational activities but for weekend drivers the roads were generally bare. Each year as we enjoy winter weekends at our cottage we are aware that an increasing number of our neighbours are "in residence" as well. We, of course, are joining the increasing ranks of members who have chosen to make Lake of Bays their permanent home. Every season has its joys and we love those winter experiences at the lake. There's so much to do in the way of outdoor activity and then there are the evenings in front of a roaring fire. That's pretty hard to beat!

And now, spring has returned! We're looking forward to the warm-weather projects and activities that the season brings.

Our annual Association Open Board meeting, held on January 16 in Baysville, was very well attended. This meeting provides a very good opportunity for information and discussion. Callum Rankin of the Integrated Security Unit for the 2010 G8 presented an overview of the summit security plans. There were many questions answered about how the summit will affect us. Please read Callum's article and visit the website www.g8isu.ca for up-to-date information.

The Township's website, www.lakeofbays.on.ca is an excellent source of local information available to all. Your Board looks at Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes online. Currently, we are closely monitoring the budget process and a number of Board members are attending the meetings of the Corporate and Finance Committee. We will inform you of the date for the open public budget meeting and encourage you to attend.

Many members of our Association were involved in the 2009 Community-based Strategic Planning process. I urge you to visit the Township's website to find out more about that process and the seven strategies that were developed to guide future goal setting.

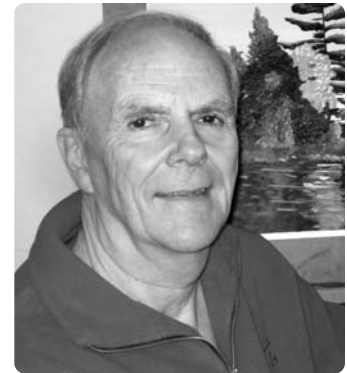
In a recent report to the membership of The Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations (FOCA) we learned that 8



million Canadian powerboat operators have not yet obtained their Operator Cards. The deadline passed on September 15, 2009. If you are included in this statistic, please take advantage of the information provided in this newsletter about courses for obtaining a card.

Please help us with our membership recruitment. Each year, there are new cottages and new residents on the lake. The mission of our association is "to promote, maintain and enhance a clean, healthy and natural environment, a well-served community and a safe, peaceful Lake of Bays." Collectively, we can achieve our mission but it is important that we have an inclusive membership that is well informed and is committed to good stewardship of our resources. Please tell your neighbours and friends about the Association and urge them to consider membership. Have YOU renewed your own membership?! Membership forms are available on our website.

WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS



Ian White, Director

Ian White has been a cottager for 60 years, and has spent the last six on Lake of Bays. He and his wife Sue have come to love Lake of Bays and enjoy having their children and grandchildren visit them at the cottage on Price Point Road. Ian is an experienced professional engineer with an MBA and has his own consulting business. We are delighted that Ian has joined the Board of the Lake of Bays Association and the Membership Committee.



Les Dakens, Director

Les Dakens and his wife, Marijane enjoy spending time at their cottage on Pine Ridge Road. A graduate of York University, Les recently retired from CN Rail, where he was Senior Vice President of Human Resources. Since retirement, he has established a HR consulting practice. Les has written two successful business books: *Switchpoints*, *Culture Change on the Fast Track to Business Success* and *Employee Performance Scorecards*. Les is a great addition to the Board of Directors and to the Membership Committee.

Preserving our History and Preparing for our Future:

St. John's, Fox Point and St. James, Port Cunnington Endowment Fund

As you drive along Fox Point Road or Port Cunnington Road, you will notice two small white Anglican churches with a big history. St. John's at Fox Point has graced the shores of Church Bay for more than 100 years, and its partner church, St. James, has nestled beside Port Cunnington Lodge for 75 years. These churches were built by some of the Fox Point and Port Cunnington pioneer families, and still have strong connections to them. Each Sunday in the summer, and for special

occasions throughout the year, these country churches open their doors to residents, cottagers and resort guests.

The leadership team at Lake of Bays Parish is trying to preserve these historic churches and prepare them for another 100 years of ministry. We have established an Endowment Fund to preserve these churches and improve their facilities in order to make them fully functional and accessible for weddings, baptisms, and memorial services. The Endowment Fund will also enable

us to establish new ministries such as music and children's programs and to offer church services to people at their homes and cottages. We have already received donations to the fund, many in memory of long-time residents or cottagers. If you would like to be part of preserving and enjoying these treasures of our history and community, please contact Rev. Heather Manuel at 641-8787 or lakeofbaysanglican@hotmail.com to donate to the Renew, Re-energize and Endow Fund.

Lake of Bays Aids Fish Stock in Mary Lake *continued from page 1*

rainy day to see 'your' Lake of Bays lake trout and learn how they are raised and contribute to fisheries management in the area? You can also visit the HHOA web site at www.hhoa.on.ca. Operating the hatchery is a 365 day-a-year volunteer undertaking. Operating costs such as fish food and electricity are paid for by local fund-raising. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

MNR plans to collect eggs from Lake of Bays for three years, stock the resulting yearlings into Mary Lake, then monitor the population to determine if they successfully reproduce. This is a long term project; as lake trout become mature at about 7 years of age, it will be close to 10 years before we know if the project is successful.

The attempt to catch and transport adult whitefish was something new for local MNR staff. Going into it they didn't know if they would be able to catch whitefish in significant numbers and deliver them in a healthy state to Mary Lake; there had been no previous work done to determine where whitefish spawn in the lake and whitefish are notoriously sensitive to handling.

After several days of effort, including going out at night with bright lights trying to find concentrations of whitefish, an area was located where they could be readily captured. Over the next week, 141 whitefish were caught and transferred to Mary Lake. Different types of nets were used to catch the fish, which were then transferred to a temporary holding tank on a boat. Fish were transferred to a larger tank in the



MNR technicians Andrew Ivany and Chris Johnson with a Lake of Bays whitefish

back of a truck for their trip to Mary Lake. The fish were measured, sexed and the adipose fin (the small fleshy fin on the back) was cut off to allow future identification as a stocked fish. The fin itself was preserved for future genetic analysis. Compressed oxygen was bubbled into the water to keep the fish healthy. Most fish weathered the trip well and quickly swam into deep water when released at the docks in Port Sydney.

The plan is to transfer whitefish for two more years and then to monitor the population in Mary Lake to see if they are successfully reproducing. At the same time, fingerling whitefish collected from Lake Simcoe will be stocked as stocking more than one genetic strain may increase the chance of success. The benefit of transfer-

ring adults versus fingerlings is that they can spawn immediately, whereas it will be several years before the Lake Simcoe fish will be able to spawn.

This project should have no long-term affect on the fish populations in Lake of Bays and at the same time provides new information about the lake. Next year MNR hopes to locate additional whitefish spawning areas. If any readers have knowledge of whitefish spawning activity or locations, the MNR would be very interested in hearing from you. Stephen Scholten, MNR fisheries biologist in Bracebridge, is the leader of the project and can be contacted at 646-5523 or steve.scholten@ontario.ca.

Canadian Freshwaters at Risk of Asian Carp Invasion

Emergency Action Needed to Stop the Fish From Entering the Great Lakes

October 14 joint press release from Great Lakes United, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Forever. Reprinted with permission from the Georgian Bay Association and Georgian Bay Forever.

Invasive Asian carp have reached the electrical barrier operating in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (Chicago Canal) in Illinois, the last line of defence in preventing a catastrophic invasion of the Great Lakes and possible infestation of Canadian freshwaters.

The Asian carp are invasive fish that are harming the environment and economies of the Mississippi, and threaten to do the same to the Great Lakes. There are two particularly harmful species of carp in the canal now—the bighead and silver carp. The bighead are voracious filter feeders that can grow to more than 5 feet long, and quickly come to dominate a water body. The slightly smaller jumping silver carp can reproduce rapidly. The carp pose a huge threat to the Great Lakes, because they can grow to more than 50 pounds and consume up to 20 per cent of their body weight in plankton per day, food upon which every other fish species in the lakes depends, directly or indirectly.



Bighead Carp—do we want these in the Great Lakes?

They both like colder water. They would cause irreversible harm to the Great Lakes by consuming large quantities of algae and zooplankton, muscling out native fish populations.

The Chicago Canal is a man-made waterway that connects Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River basin. Originally intended as a means for the city of Chicago to overcome sewage problems in the early 20th century, it created an artificial connection through which aquatic invasive species can pass in both directions. This is the only waterway connecting the two basins. The \$20M electric barrier was recently completed, and is located about 20 miles south of Lake Michigan. A new DNA monitoring technique being used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found that invasive Asian carp are a mere mile from the electric barrier in the Canal. In response, the Corps increased the voltage at the barrier from 1 to 2 volts. HOWEVER, the barrier has to be shut down annually for two weeks for maintenance, and now, just as the carp are approaching, it will be shut down.

Several groups are alarmed that, right now, carp have surrounded the Canal by invading waterways less than 100 feet from the Canal. “There is an urgent threat of the carp entering Lake Michigan if the nearby waterways flood into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, just as they did last fall,” says Jennifer Nalbene, Campaign Director of Invasive Species and Navigation for Great Lakes United. “One heavy rain event could spell disaster for the Great Lakes and inland waters across Canada.”

The carp are in the Des Plaines River, which, in some places, is only a few yards away from the Canal. The carp are also in another adjacent canal, the I&M, which is connected to the Canal by small culverts that the carp can swim through during heavy rains.

“This is an emergency, and we are down to sandbags and mortar,” says Mary Muter, Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian

Bay Forever. “Physical barriers must be built along these nearby waterways and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to ensure that the carp cannot swim through fissures in the dolomite, or through culverts, and that, during a fall flood, live carp cannot be carried into the Canal past the electrical barrier. The locks allowing recreational boats to move from the Canal out to Lake Michigan must be closed until it is known that the carp cannot move out to the Lake.”

Asian carp present a significant risk to Canadian freshwaters. The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife warn that Asian carp would not only survive in colder freshwaters, but their preference for colder waters means that they could thrive in waterways across Canada, in most of the provinces, and all the way up to the Arctic.

“If the Asian carp make it to Lake Michigan, they won’t stop at the border,” says Dr. Terry Quinney from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. “They will invade all of the Great Lakes, and have the opportunity to spread within inland waterways across the province, affecting the \$7 billion dollar recreational and commercial fishery, as well as degrading the biodiversity of our waters.”

Government agencies are developing emergency strategies that include the possible use of chemicals being poured into the canal above the barrier to kill fish that are about to get into Lake Michigan. The groups say that after these emergency actions are taken, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must quickly turn to its work to permanently separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River to stop this emergency from becoming an epidemic.

How does this concern Lake of Bays?

This is not just a Great Lakes problem. The devastation of the Great Lakes fisheries and sport fishing industry will result

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Canadian Freshwaters at Risk of Asian Carp Invasion *continued from page 4*

in increased pressure on fish stocks in cottage country lakes. But more importantly, the big question is whether, or even when, these invasive species will reach the Muskoka watershed and Lake of Bays. The answer is never, if appropriate action is

taken now. Reports published more recently than the October press release published above, say that Asian Carp DNA has been found in Lake Michigan. Our leaders need to know that Canadians don't want this problem to cross the border.

Background information on Asian Carp is posted on our website (www.loba.ca) or visit the Great Lakes United website at <http://www.glu.org/asiancarp>.

Photo Contest Winners

Sponsored by Aben Graphics

Aben
graphics Ltd.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2009 Lake of Bays Photo Contest. Look for all the winning photos and many other contest entries in the 2010 Yearbook. The prizes for first place in each category, generously sponsored by Aben Graphics of Huntsville, will be presented at the Lake of Bays Association Annual Meeting on July 10th in Baysville. Thank you to the many, many contestants for sharing their magic moments at Lake of Bays. The wildlife population at the lake must be thriving, because there was quite a cast of creatures posing for the camera this year! In addition to the requisite loons and ducks, we received pictures of a bear, moose, beaver, porcupine, heron, turtle and a few hummingbirds. There was even a deer observing a tennis match and a swimming chipmunk. It was a pleasure to receive some fall and winter pictures; our website could use a seasonal update. Start snapping your photos now for the 2010 contest.

And the winners are:

Landscapes—Land, Water & Sky

- 1st Hilary Curren
- 2nd Rick Bodner
- 3rd Alex Blair

Life at the Lake—People, Pets & Dwellings

- 1st Tim Stanley
- 2nd Pierre Falzon
- 3rd Michael Lennard

Nature—Wild Plants & Animals

- 1st Warren Prince
- 2nd Brian Simpson
- 3rd Hilary Curren



Who's having more fun, the big kids or the little kids? Photographer Tim Stanley captured the thrills and chills of tubing reflected in the faces of these soggy riders. Tim won first place in the 'Life at the Lake' category.

This is The Lake of Bays Association's 84th year!

Because of you, our members, we are able to continue the ongoing activities and special projects that our directors, volunteers and staff undertake in fulfilling our mission to: *promote, maintain and enhance a clean, healthy and natural environment, a well-served community and a safe, peaceful Lake of Bays.* Our water quality testing program and government monitoring provides excellent reason for continued membership. Our yearbook, Current Connection newsletters, website, e-bulletins and meetings provide up-to-date news and information. The Association is our voice and action on issues that affect our quality of life at Lake of Bays. To keep that voice strong we must be strong in numbers.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2010 please do so before the end of March to ensure you receive a copy of the Yearbook and the remaining two newsletters. Renewals collected after July 1st will be impacted by the new HST, so please don't delay.

If you are not sure of your membership status, please call or email the Association office at (705) 767-3395, or info@loba.ca.

Betty McDonald
Membership Chair

G8 SUMMIT TIPS FOR LAKE OF BAYS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

The G8 Summit will be held at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville on June 25th and 26th, 2010. Security measures, including road and waterway restrictions on Peninsula and Fairy Lakes are expected to be in place from approximately June 23rd until June 27th. These dates are tentative and could be changed.

HIGHWAY 60

Only persons with the appropriate accreditation will be allowed to travel into the restricted section of Highway 60, near Deerhurst. Alternate routes have been identified. A detailed map is available on the Integrated Security Unit's (ISU) website at www.g8isu.ca, or by phoning 1-888-446-4047.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

There will be significant OPP presence on roads to manage the traffic during the summit. In addition, there could be congestion on local highways and it would make sense for local residents and visitors to plan ahead by stocking up on food, gas, medical and other supplies before the G8.

LOCAL POLICING

The number of OPP officers in Huntsville will be increased during the Summit. Residents are encouraged to contact their local OPP detachment if they witness any unlawful activity during the Summit, including trespassing on private property. Call 1-888-310-1122.

INFORMATION

The best way to get up-to-the-minute information on G8 security measures is through the ISU website at www.g8isu.ca or phone 1-888-446-4047. The ISU will also use local media to communicate with residents.

EMERGENCY

Normal 911 emergency services will be available throughout the summit for life threatening emergency or crime in progress.

Community Based Strategic Plan Update

Between May and August 2009 hundreds of citizens of the Township of Lake of Bays crafted a set of strategies to work on together as a community. As a result, the vision for the Township was revised slightly to reflect a new sense of priorities and seven strategies were developed to guide goal setting for the Township and community organizations for years to come.

In November, town hall meetings were held to update the community on the current status of the Strategic Plan. Participants demonstrated that they are ready to take on responsibility for implementing the strategic plan and to start moving forward on the individual initiatives. A committee was established for each strategy. Below is a list of the seven strategies and the community volunteer who has agreed to lead each initiative.

Seven Strategies and Team Leaders:

Engage and Communicate Openly with the Community

Herb Hickling: hickling01@bell.net

Develop a Sustainable Local Economy that Supports Our Vision

Peter Grikes: pgrikes@sympatico.ca

Ensure Sound, Innovative, Transparent Financial Planning

Fred Landry: fred.landry@sympatico.ca

Develop Long-Term Land, Lake and Community Plans that are Balanced and Adaptive

Harriet Muirhead: 705-767-2220

Protect, Preserve and Promote Our Healthy, Natural Environment

Brian Simpson: bsimpson2@gmail.com

Work in Collaborative Partnerships

Gloria Woodside: gloria@cottagecountry.net

Develop Our Capacity to Provide Social Services

Margaret Casey: margaret.casey@sympatico.ca

These committees are looking for volunteers. If you have an interest in seeing the Vision and Strategies for Lake of Bays Township become reality, volunteer to join one of the Strategy Teams. Whether you are a permanent or seasonal resident your input is valuable, so do not hesitate to contact the Strategy Team leader to get your voice heard. For more information, please contact the committee coordinator, Ginny Burgess, Sinclair Ward Councillor, at: burgess@muskoka.com. Read more about the Strategic Plan at www.lakeofbays.on.ca.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

At the Annual General Meeting the Lake of Bays Association elects new members to the Board. The Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for Directors. Each Director must work on one of the following committees: Environment, External Affairs, Planning, Membership, Communications or Recreation & Safety. If you are interested in working on one of these committees and serving as a Director of the Lake of Bays Association or if there is someone you would like to nominate for a position, please contact Gloria Woodside by email at gloria@cottagecountry.net.

Boaters, Know Your Lake

Barry Johnson, Chair, Recreation and Safety Committee

Unmarked Shoal Area in Haystack Bay

Lake of Bays is generally a safe lake for boating. The main travel routes of the lake are marked for day and night boating. However, there are dangers with changing water levels and unmarked hazards in out of the way areas of our lake.

A thoughtful member has informed us of an unmarked hazard in the northwest section of Haystack Bay. There were a number of boating incidents in this area during the summer of 2009. This hazard can be viewed on Chart 6023—CANADA, ONTARIO, LAKE OF BAYS available at many local stores and marinas. This chart shows the hazard but it is not marked on the lake as the Coast Guard only marks the lake's main channels.

It is the responsibility of the boater to be aware of local hazards. Study your charts and above all, be observant. Drive with caution if you are unfamiliar with the area and be aware of changing water levels over the course of the season.

Get your Card Online!

The deadline has passed. Everyone who operates a motorized pleasure craft must carry a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) or face a fine of \$250. Proof of competency is not required for pleasure craft without motors.

You can do your test online with BOATsmart Canada and be ready before the ice goes out. Go to www.loba.ca and click on 'Get the Card' (under 'Quick Links' on our home page) to access the BOATsmart Exam:

- Free Online Study Guide
- Take your BOATsmart Exam online—\$49.95 + gst
- Free retries
- Transport Canada Accredited

The Lake of Bays Association receives a referral fee when you "click-through" from www.loba.ca, so be sure to access the BOATsmart Exam through our website.

More Savings—You are a member of

FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) through the Lake of Bays Association. FOCA members receive an exclusive \$10 discount when taking the exam online. Enter Discount Code FOCA219 to save!

If you are not a resident of Canada, you only need a card if you are operating a motorboat in Canadian waters for more than 45 consecutive days or if the boat you are operating is registered or licensed in Canada (this includes rented boats).

Cottagers who rent out their cottage with a boat, should be aware that renters must complete a "Rental Boat Safety Checklist" or show proof of competency before heading out on the water. For more information on these regulations, visit the Transport Canada website

www.boatingsafety.gc.ca. A sample "Rental Boat Safety Checklist" can be found on the following link

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/appendix-a.pdf>.

NEW—Youth On Board Courses and PCOC Testing this Summer

The Lake of Bays Association is partnering with BOATsmart Canada to offer a safe

boating course and PCOC testing opportunity specifically geared to youth 8 to 15 years of age. The day long course will include an on water component providing practical boat driving experience. Dates, locations and registration information will be posted on our website (www.loba.ca) shortly. Details will be sent to you via email in a Lake of Bays NEWSFLASH and published in the summer issue of Current Connection.

Adult Safe Boating Courses

We will also be running our Adult Safe Boating Courses again this summer. This program offers a two-and-a-half-hour seminar followed by an opportunity to write the Pleasure Craft Operating Card test. These courses are excellent for new boaters and a great refresher for experienced boaters. They cover the basics of safe boating and include discussion around boating on Lake of Bays. Susan Grant, an accredited power and sail instructor, will be the seminar leader for this popular program. Dates and locations will be posted on www.loba.ca as soon as they are confirmed.

Annual Native Plant and Wildflower Sale



LAKE OF BAYS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

For the 7th year the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation are selling native plants for both the shoreline and garden. Complete details of the plants and order form can be found on the Foundation's website www.lakeofbaysheritage.ca. Order date is by April 9th and pick up date is Saturday of the Victoria Day Weekend (May 22nd) in either Dwight in the Township office parking lot or in Baysville in the Sunoco parking lot. For more information contact Daphne 705-766-1818 daphne@drcurtis.ca

Port Cunnington Lodge Plays the Green Card

Eco-friendly design and construction key to resort project

By Bryan Dearsley

Lake of Bays has seen countless hotels, lodges and resorts come and go over the decades. Vacationers first began visiting the area close to 150 years ago, preferring the area's simple accommodations to other more popular parts of Muskoka. These first vacationers, drawn from the sweltering cities thought little of having to spend a day or more traveling by train and boat just to get here.

Constructing these early summer residences was no small feat, either. Without the luxury of power tools or electricity, everything had to be done the hard way, using good old-fashioned brute force and horsepower of the four-legged variety. But the results of all this hard work left a lasting legacy on Lake of Bays, with some of these original hotels still standing today and operating as vital components of Muskoka's tourism industry.

One of the most notable surviving hotels is Port Cunnington Lodge, a family-owned and operated resort, which celebrates its 120th anniversary this year. Port Cunnington has always been family run; present day hosts, Cam and Kim Loader, are direct descendents of Boyce Henry Cunnington, one of the first hoteliers in the area, and founder of the lodge the Loader's call home. Today, the original Victorian lodge remains the centerpiece of the resort.

Over the past several years, Port Cunnington Lodge has seen further expansion with the addition of several new custom-built family chalets and an extended waterfront that now measures 1,800 feet. Situated on 22 scenic acres in a sheltered bay across from historic Bigwin Island, the new construction has attracted considerable attention.

Port Cunnington Lodge's most recent building project has marked a turning point for the resort that will serve as an example of enlightened design throughout Muskoka. For it, the resort decided to "go green," and embrace state-of-the-art, eco-friendly technology. As a result, Port Cunnington Lodge is now the only family-owned resort in Canada to have a platinum LEED designation, the highest "green" certification avail-

able. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the LEED program (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) provides a stringent set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction that has spread worldwide since its launch in 1998. It's becoming an increasingly popular concept in Canada, and is actively promoted by the Canada Green Building Council (www.cagbc.org), a group offering workshops and training seminars.

A third-party certification program and the accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings, the LEED program promotes a unique whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health. These are: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Deciding to move into green construction was a logical move for Port Cunnington Lodge, which had been looking to expand in an environmentally friendly way. Built by Greystone Construction and overseen by project manager Neil Cambay, the project, consisting of two new luxury cottages, was also the builder's first foray into LEED certification. The two timber frame cottages, each with four bedrooms and four-and-a-half bathrooms, plus a single bedroom guesthouse attached by a deck, accommodate approximately 20 of the lodge's 134 guests. The buildings are extremely energy efficient, and also boast geo-thermal heating and cooling systems.

Another key element of the new cottages is the interior design package chosen to complement the Chris Schmitt-designed architectural package. Not only was it deemed important that Canada's First Nations be recognized for their ability to live in harmony with the nature, but wherever possible, environmentally friendly materials were used for interior finishings. In addition, local businesses were used to provide furnishings for the new buildings whenever possible, a key component of the project, to help ensure dollars spent were

pumped into the local economy.

Despite this latest addition, Port Cunnington Lodge has managed to maintain its small resort feel. Today, 120 years after welcoming its first guests, it remains as popular as ever. And, thanks to the forward looking nature of its owners and management, it looks set to be welcoming many future generations of visitors to Lake of Bays.

Donation from Books' Sales Appreciated

Special thanks to Bruce MacLellan, a Lake of Bays Association member and Past President of The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation for his very generous donation to our Association's Action Fund. Bruce donated a percentage of the sales from his book, *Postcards from Lake of Bays*. The book, with sales well over 1000, is available in local shops. Bruce's collection of postcards depicts the lake and surrounding area from 1900 through the late 1940s.



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