

# CURRENT CONNECTION

Summer 2010 Vol. 21, No. 2



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

## BONA VISTA

By Karl Jaffary for the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation



*The old dock at Bona Vista*

Bona Vista is a small community on the west side of Lake of Bays, about half way between Clovelly Point and Britannia, across the lake from Point Ideal.

The community of Bona Vista was established by a number of ministers, mostly Presbyterian, under the leadership of the Rev. J. A. Brown. Mr. Brown's wife had relatives named Black who had a cottage at Norway Point. Legend has it that Mr. Brown found the summer life at Norway Point, with the WaWa Hotel and its frequent visitors, becoming too "worldly" for his taste, so some of the ministers who made up a group of early cottagers at Norway Point left because of declining piety. Perhaps there was a sense in which the founding of Bona Vista was compared to the Israelites escaping from the slavery and fleshpots of Egypt! The WaWa Hotel burned to the ground on August 20th, 1923. We don't know whether the ministers at Bona Vista saw that as divine punishment for the devil's work, but some of them might have. One visitor to Bona Vista suggested that it should be called "the Holy Coast."

Mr. Brown and his wife travelled

around the lake seeking a bucolic cottage location. They were particularly taken by the point where Barbara and Ed Murphy's cottage now stands. Mr. Brown and his friend the Rev. Dr. J. A. Turnbull decided to establish summer cottages next door to each other. Construction may have taken some time. The first cottage to the north of the Turnbull land was said to have been built about 1908, while the first cottage to the south was built in 1911 or 12, by Miss Marjorie Black, a Toronto school teacher and a relative of the Norway Point Blacks. Many of the early cottagers at Bona Vista were ministers and friends of Mr. Brown.

There was an informal, but very important cottagers association from the beginning. They assumed responsibility for making arrangements for the supply of milk and bread, seeing that the community pump was in good repair, and making arrangements for the Boothby family to cut ice and supply the ice houses. They also organized work crews to make repairs to the pagoda and the big dock where steamers landed. There was a major re-planking of the dock in about 1950, with many able-bodied men and



*Boarding the Iroquois II at the Bona Vista dock*

boys spiking down the planks. It was dismantled in the 1970s.

An annual meeting was held to elect officers, set dues and discuss new work to be done. Vic Roberts was elected "mayor" in 1934, and it was the following spring that the road was put through from Clarkes' to a parking area at the back of the J. A. Brown property. Some things never change; roads were important then as they are now.

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## President's Message

by Mary Neal, President, Lake of Bays Association

This is my last President's message as I am completing my final term. With great pleasure I inform you that, starting at our July 10th AGM, Betty McDonald will take up 'the reins of office.' Betty has been at the cottage every summer since her infancy. Her grandmother, Mabel Walton, built their cottage on Fox Point Road in 1937. Betty was an active Area Steward for nine years, Area Steward Coordinator for six years, and Chair of the Membership Committee for the past five years. The Board welcomes Betty's enthusiasm and willingness to move into her new role.

Serving as president has been a very rewarding experience. I won't pretend that it hasn't been time consuming but I've learned much about our lake and it has been a privilege to work with a very talented group of people who give so generously of their time, knowledge, and expertise.

Looking back over the past few years of Association activities I recognise that there is much to celebrate. We have a very hardworking board and we have consistently reported on our many activities, projects and achievements. We have continued to be strong advocates for good stewardship of our lake and, in particular, of our shoreline areas. We have closely monitored the debates and decisions of both our township and district councils. We have strengthened our affiliations with other cottage associations. We have been very committed to providing information and education in the areas of waterfront development, environmental protection and safety. We have actively promoted activities on and around our lake. Our Membership Committee and our Area Stewards have conducted successful campaigns to recruit new members. Internally, we have developed a new Association logo, strengthened our communications strategies, and rewritten our Policy and Operations Manual.

My thanks to our two part-time staff members, Wendy Gibson and Bev Govan, for their many contributions to the work of the Association. The board, committees, and the executive are a remarkable



team. I've served on a number of boards and I can assure you that ours is uniquely cooperative and hardworking. It is strongly focused on maintaining the wonderful qualities of the lake that we hold dear. The membership is truly fortunate to be so well served. I look forward to my two year term as Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee.

Have a safe and happy summer! I hope to see you at the AGM in Baysville on July 10th.

## BONA VISTA *continued from page 1*

In 1993–94, the community decided to buy 17 acres of land from Anna Brown. Much of the road crosses that land, as does the path to Little Lake. At first several cottagers who acted as trustees held the land, but it was then decided that the best way to hold the land would be by the incorporation of a corporation without share capital. There was a requirement for three directors, and the Bona Vista Cottagers' Association was created.

The objects of the Association were to "promote the welfare of the summer community on Lake of Bays known as Bona Vista." Each of the owners of property at Bona Vista was entitled to be a member. The three first directors were Harold Arnup, John Clarke and Stuart Jaffary, and the Association continued the practice of calling one of those people "mayor" and another "treasurer."

There are many good stories about the various cottage owners, and many of them have been chronicled in a booklet that will be published for the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation's **Annual General Meeting to be held at the Bethune United Church in Baysville on August 14th at 11:00 a.m.** Please plan to join us and hear more about the interesting history of the Bona Vista community.

## Would you like to be an Association Volunteer?

### Area Stewards Requested

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Area Steward Visitation Program this summer. Area Stewards serve as ambassadors of the Association by visiting residents, sharing information and promoting membership. If you reside on Hwy 117, Old 117 and Dwight Bay and would be interested in participating as an Area Steward in your neighbourhood, please contact Ian White, Area Steward Coordinator at 705-789-9947 or 416-231-9598 or e-mail Ian at [ian.white@rogers.com](mailto:ian.white@rogers.com).

### Yearbook Editor Needed

Jane Coutts is retiring from her role as editor of the Lake of Bays Association Yearbook. Many thanks to Jane for the outstanding job she has done on the yearbook for so many years. We are looking for someone with an interest in copy and photo editing to join our Communications Committee as the yearbook editor. To find out more, please contact Andrea Duncan at [andreaduncan416@gmail.com](mailto:andreaduncan416@gmail.com) or Wendy Gibson at [executivecoordinator@loba.ca](mailto:executivecoordinator@loba.ca).

## Lake of Bays Association Annual General Meeting

**Saturday, July 10, 2010**

Coffee & Exhibits at 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m.  
Baysville Community Centre

### Guest Speaker: Dr. Norman Yan

#### Topic: The Emerging Threat of Calcium Decline to our Lakes

Calcium is a nutrient required, to varying degrees, by all living organisms. The recently discovered decline of calcium in many of Ontario's inland lakes is causing concern within the scientific community. Research conducted by Dr. Norman Yan and his colleagues at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre indicates that we are starting to lose zooplankton, the tiny animals such as water fleas that need large amounts of calcium to survive. Other aquatic species, such as crayfish, snails and even birds are at risk because their diets depend on calcium-rich zooplankton. Calcium loss is a legacy of acid rain and logging that is not well understood, but represents a new threat to a fragile ecosystem already under considerable pressure.

Dr. Norman Yan is a professor of biology at York University whose interest is in measuring the impact of environmental and man-made stressors on water quality and ecology in inland lakes. The focus of his research on calcium depletion has been primarily on lakes in Muskoka. There are few who understand the dynamics of our water better than Dr. Yan, and you don't have to be a scientist to enjoy his informative and entertaining presentations. Dr. Yan was a guest speaker at our annual meeting in 2003 and he's back by popular demand. You won't want to miss it.

Also at the annual meeting will be a presentation of the stunning pictures from this year's photo contest and information on local issues and the activities of the Association. Coffee and exhibits at 9:00 a.m., the meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Adult Safe Boating Courses and PCOC Test

The Lake of Bays Association is offering two safe boating courses and PCOC test dates for people 16 years and older this summer:

**July 7** Norway Point Church (10 a.m.)  
**Aug. 4** Dwight Senior's Centre (10 a.m.)

This course, offered by Power Squadron instructor Susan Grant, will be a three-hour classroom session covering safe boating practices, personal protection requirements, boat safety equipment, rules of the road and basic navigation. Following the course there will be an opportunity to write the PCOC test if you wish. Taking the course does not preclude the need to study the Safe Boating Guide prior to writing the exam. You can purchase the guide for \$22.50 from Susan Grant. Contact her at Haystack Marina (705) 635-2241.

Pre-registration is required. Registration forms are available on the Lake of Bays Association website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)), or by calling the Association office at: (705) 767-3395.

**Cost:** \$15 Safe Boating Course only (non refundable)  
\$30 Test Fee (test is optional and fee is payable on the day of the test)

## Municipal Elections Monday October 25, 2010

The 2010 Ontario Municipal Elections take place on Monday October 25. This year, the Township of Lake of Bays is providing an alternative voting method; a mail-in ballot. The township will be sending a mail-in voting kit to each voter well ahead of election day providing ample time to return the ballot by mail. There will be notification on the Association website [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca) when the ballot kits have been mailed so that you can anticipate their arrival.

As in past elections, the Lake of Bays Association has formed an Elections Committee and will invite each township candidate to be interviewed. Part of our lake is in the Town of Huntsville, and if time allows, we will try to interview candidates for the Mayor of Huntsville and Brunel ward. A summary of candidate responses will be published in a special edition of Current Connection that will be mailed out to the membership in early October and posted on the Association website before the election. Members of the Elections Committee will also try to attend each of the all-candidate meetings to gain further insight into election issues.

The intent of this exercise is to familiarize our members with the people who are running for office and where they stand on issues that are of particular interest to residents on Lake of Bays. What is important to you? Please email any questions and/or issues that you would like us to ask the candidates to [gloria@cottagecountry.ca](mailto:gloria@cottagecountry.ca).

We also encourage you to attend an all-candidate meeting. Nominations close on September 10 and we will notify our members of any all-candidate meetings by email and on our website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)).

### Membership Fee Increase to \$55.00

The Association Board approved a membership fee increase of \$5 to recover the cost of the new provincial Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). The new \$55 membership fee will be effective for all memberships paid after July 1, 2010.

# Lessons Learned from 2009 Water Quality Testing: A Need for Vigilance and Stewardship

By Deb Cumming, Chair, Environment Committee

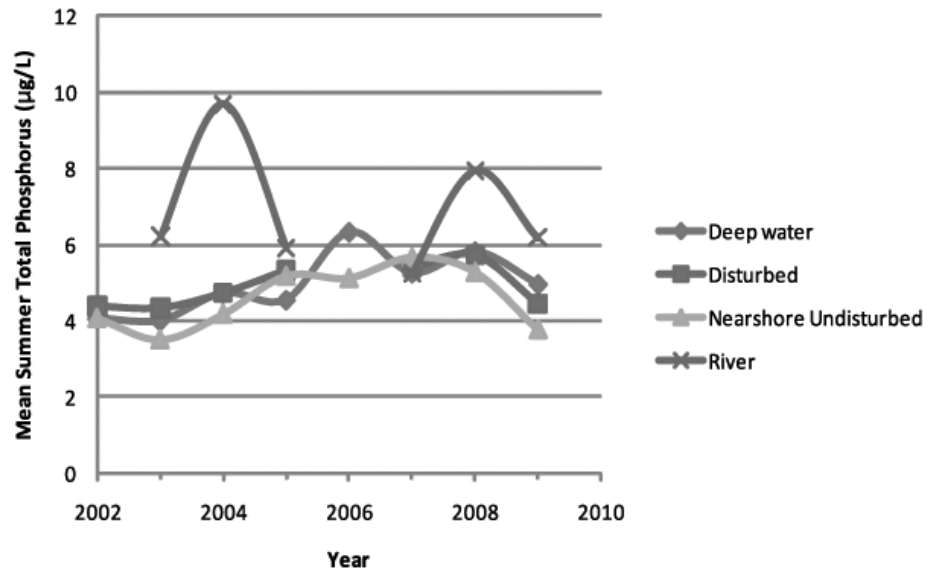
The Lake of Bays Association was originally formed to represent the interests of waterfront property owners on Lake of Bays. Our focus has expanded over time in recognition of the interdependence between a healthy lake and a healthy local economy. Lake of Bays is not just a body of water; it is also a municipality, a watershed and a community.

The health of Lake of Bays is a high priority for our members. Water quality sampling and analysis are the Environment Committee's core business, and our resources are allocated accordingly. We use research, testing and analysis to expand our understanding of the complexities of lake water health to identify and respond to any changes that threaten water quality.

We are blessed with good water quality in Lake of Bays. There is E. coli present in the lake. But its levels are low suggesting that human activity is not significantly adding to the E. coli counts. Phosphorus is also low; well below the Ontario guideline of 20 mg/litre and also well under the 10 mg/litre standard set by the District of Muskoka for its lakes. Our lake is situated at the top of the Muskoka River watershed and development pressures on it have been less than those on other big Muskoka lakes, enabling technology and municipal planning to accommodate growth without stressing the lake. In short, to date we have been lucky.

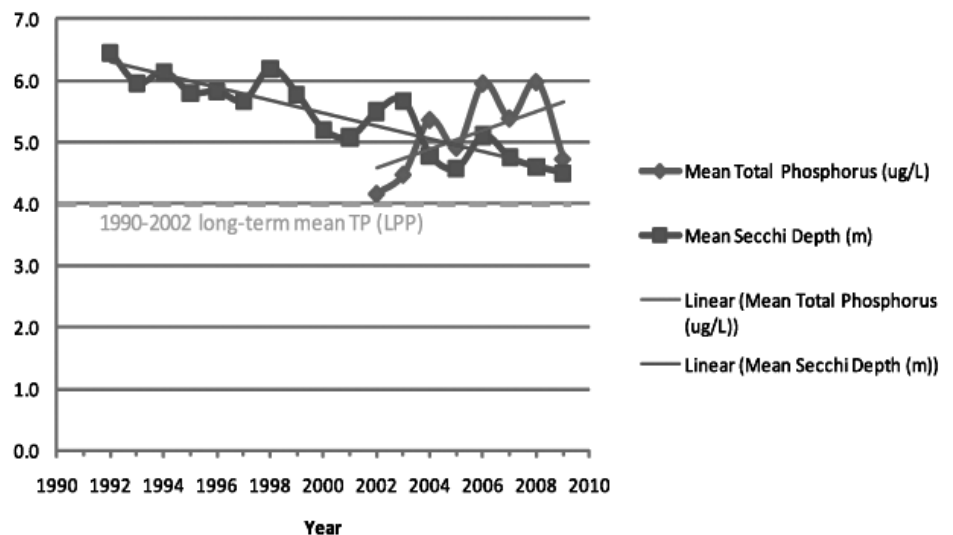
**But... we need to be cautious.** As the table to the right shows, phosphorus levels are rising in the lake; the period 2002-2009 shows a statistically viable upward trend. These numbers are matched with declining secchi depth numbers that measure water clarity (see table). Phosphorus numbers are well below the District target of 10 mg/litre and our consultants advise that the trend seems to be the result of climatic conditions and not human-based activity within the lake's watershed. High phosphorus levels result in increased algae growth and can precipitate unsightly algae blooms. We can help reduce and offset the negative impacts of climate change on water quality, with good local stewardship practices.

## Mean Annual Total Phosphorus Concentrations in Lake of Bays (2002–2009)



This table presents mean phosphorus levels for the five categories of sites sampled in the LOBA program. Note that the deepwater sites, which provide the best indication of overall lake levels, show a definite increase from 2002–2009.

## Long-Term Mean Annual Total Phosphorus Concentrations and Secchi Depth in Lake of Bays



This table shows the mean total phosphorus for all Lake of Bays sites increasing from 2002–2009 as well as steadily decreasing water clarity (measured by secchi depth testing) over the same period.

## Lessons Learned from 2009 Water Quality Testing *continued from page 4*

It is an exaggeration to say that the increasing phosphorus trend that has emerged between 2002 and last year is a harbinger of doom. The trend is real, however, and will be difficult to reverse. While the Association is relieved that it doesn't appear to be caused by anything that we, as a community, are doing directly to the lake, it is important for all of us to be aware of this trend and do what we can to counteract it.

### How can you help?

Environmental stewardship encompasses a broad range of activities and sometimes the best way to combat phosphorus overloading in our lake is by *not* doing things—being passive and letting the ecosystem take care of itself. So, as a cottager,

- don't wash anything in the lake
- don't maintain lawns
- don't bring sand in to make a beach
- don't use herbicides, pesticides or fertilizer near the lake
- Do leave the shoreline in a natural state
- Do leave wetlands alone

Cottagers with significantly altered properties can consider re-naturalizing their shorelines by planting native trees

and shrubs, eliminating lawns and minimizing the construction of docks, paths and artificial beaches in the shoreline activity areas. And all of us need to help with climate change by using less fossil fuel overall.

The Lake of Bays Association will continue to champion water quality and ecosystem health, and the Environment Committee will stay vigilant in terms of testing, analyzing and interpreting water quality. We ask you to embrace the stewardship activities that are reasonable and meaningful for you.

### Thank you to the 2009 H2O Team!

Deb Cumming, the Environment Committee and the Association as a whole would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the 2009 water quality testing team. We usually convince people to help out with water quality by pointing out the joys of being on the lake early in the morning; warm sun, gentle breeze, wonderfully quiet. Little of that applied last summer, at least during July. Water sampling days were windy, wet and far from pleasant. Nevertheless the team persevered and all samples were collected on all sampling dates! Many thanks to:

- Jennifer Hutt (and Bob): who did the east end of the Lake (2nd year)
- Dee Allott: who sampled the Baysville end of the Lake (2nd year)
- Nicolas Tompkins: who did Haystack Bay, the main channel and north to Gull Island (2nd year)
- Douglas Turner (and Jill): who sampled around Bigwin and Point Ideal
- Jim and Midge Monaghan/Paul and Carol Stueck: who tag teamed in Dwight Bay (1st yr)

If you know or meet these people, please acknowledge them. They are the heart and soul of the water quality-testing program!

### Summer Events Calendar [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)

Check out our Calendar of Events on [www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca) for upcoming community events, regatta dates, fund raisers and seasonal programs.

If you have an event you would like posted on our website calendar, please send the details (what, where, when and contact info) to Phyllis Ferguson at [phyllis@cottagecountry.net](mailto:phyllis@cottagecountry.net).

## Pilot Project to Support Enforcement of the Development Permit By-Law

### By Brian Simpson, Co-chair, Planning Committee

Anyone on Lake of Bays who is planning to make a change to their waterfront residential property requires approval under the township's Development Permit By-Law, a planning tool introduced in 2006 to control waterfront residential development. The by-law regulates removal of vegetation and alteration of the landscape (grading, blasting, filling, tree removal, etc.) and can require a property owner to re-naturalize the shoreline with a treed buffer zone generally to a depth of 20 metres or more as a condition for the issuance of a building permit. Once permission under the development permit process is granted, an applicant has a two-year window from the start of construction to re-naturalize the

shoreline buffer. This summer the township's planning staff will be visiting properties issued permits in 2006 and 2007 to verify compliance with the by-law and initiate enforcement if necessary.

To help ensure that re-naturalization efforts in the shoreline buffer zone are successful, the Lake of Bays Association is sponsoring an educational pilot project beginning this June. The Association has purchased a supply of *On the Living Edge, a Handbook for Waterfront Living* by Sarah Kipp and Clive Calloway. The book will be loaned through the township office to property owners who have been granted a Development Permit. It is a user-friendly book for planning projects on the shore,

and includes information on shoreline protection landscaping and naturalization. Both the Dwight Garden Centre and Bark Nursery have contributed to this initiative by carrying indigenous species that facilitate naturalization and restoration of shoreline buffers.

The Lake of Bays Association will keep several copies of the handbook in reserve for members to borrow and use as a guideline for responsible waterfront living. This pilot project is the result of a partnership between the Lake of Bays Association, the Township of Lake of Bays planning staff, and the Strategic Initiatives Committee to Protect, Preserve and Promote the Natural Environment in Lake of Bays Township.



**Muskoka**  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) released their 2010 Report Card, documenting the health of the watersheds in Muskoka. A copy of this report card is included in this mailing along with your Yearbook and summer issue of Current Connection.

Using best available science, the report card presents the results of monitoring changes in the quality of Muskoka's natural environment. Unlike some parts of Ontario, Muskoka, in general, is in very good health: 94 per cent of the watershed is in natural cover; water quality is much better than provincial guidelines for recreational use; and most wetlands are intact.

However, not all parts of Muskoka enjoy this high level of ecological health. Some areas are already showing early signs of degradation and local stewardship programs are needed to reverse these trends and restore watershed health.

The report card encourages residents, businesses and visitors to do four key things as watershed stewards - Maintain Large Natural Areas; Retain Shorelines in a Natural State; Protect Wetlands and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint.

## Britannia Bay...The Name is Now Official

Several years ago Tim Bannon, a cottage resident on Osborne Point Road, applied to the Ontario Geographic Names Board to have Britannia Bay officially named on maps. He filed his application with the backing of others on the bay and letters of support from The Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation, The Township, and our Association. Approval has been granted and the name is official.

Tim has offered to provide information and assist any member interested in pursuing the official recognition of a landmark name. The process was lengthy, but worthwhile and he guesses that he now has expertise in this endeavour!

Congratulations, Tim, and Thank You.

## NEW—BOATsmart! Youth On Board Program

Friday, July 16th

A safe boating course for kids 8 to 15 years of age will be offered on **Friday July 16th** at Pride of Lake of Bays Marine (1031 Marine Road). This program, offered by BOATsmart Canada in cooperation with Pride of Lake of Bays Marine and the Lake of Bays Association, is accredited by Transport Canada and covers the information required to pass the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) exam. The full day course consists of a four hour in-class session, which includes time allocated for writing the exam and, four hours of practical instruction on the water.

The information and test is age appropriate and provides an overview of the material covered in the BOATsmart! Safe Boating Guide. Learning outcomes include:

- how to recognize the Canadian boating rules and regulations
- definitions of boating terminology and equipment
- necessary preparations before heading out onto the water
- how to operate certain pleasure craft and what safety procedures to employ when underway
- when to engage right-of-way and navigation rules
- how to recognize various marker buoys and navigational aids
- how to respond to emergency situations and recognize distress signals.

The on-water portion of the course covers; boat handling, docking, operating amongst other boat traffic and buoy navigation.

<b>COST:</b>	\$125 prepaid or \$135 at the door (includes the cost of the test and purchase of the Safe Boating Guide)
<b>REGISTRATION:</b>	Contact Morgan Mitchell, BOATsmart! Canada Phone: 1-877-792-3926 ext. 214

There is a plan to offer on-line registration. A link will be provided on the Lake of Bays Association website ([www.loba.ca](http://www.loba.ca)) and members will be notified by email when this is available. Until then, please contact Morgan Mitchell to register by phone. Space is limited, so please register now.

## POSITION AVAILABLE:

### Advertising Sales Representative for Lake of Bays Association Yearbook

The Lake of Bays Association is seeking a sales representative to sell advertising for our annual yearbook. Reporting to the executive coordinator, this commissioned sales position will be for a twelve-month renewable contract beginning August 1, 2010. This is a part-time position.

We require a dynamic and creative person who will maintain and develop existing relationships with long-term advertisers and build new business. Successful experience in print advertising and marketing and/or publishing is an asset.

Applicants should submit their resume by June 30 by email to Wendy Gibson, Executive Coordinator, Lake of Bays Association, at: [executivecoordinator@loba.ca](mailto:executivecoordinator@loba.ca). If you are seriously interested in this position and wish to discuss the requirements, please contact Wendy Gibson at (905) 888-1619.

### Thank you Ginette St-Amant

After three very successful years as the Advertising Sales Manager for the Association Yearbook, Ginette St-Amant has decided to pursue a new business venture. The Lake of Bays Association and all our advertisers will miss Ginette's energy and enthusiasm. Thank you and good luck Ginette!

## 2010 Tax Update:

### 9.89 Percent Budget Increase for Township of Lake of Bays

After four revisions and a well-attended public meeting, the Township of Lake of Bays Finance and Corporate Services Committee approved a budget increase of 9.89 percent or \$313,036 on April 13. The overriding message that emerged through the 2010 budget deliberations was the need to focus on services that have been identified as a high priority by both residents and council such as roads.

Of the total increase, 4.6 percentage points, or \$143,46 will cover the base budget for ongoing services.

Another 1.98 percentage points were added to the levy to pay for a \$500,000 gravel replacement program that will be debentured at a cost \$61,700 per year for 10 years. The program will cover about 25 kilometres of gravel replacement. Staff noted that 75.7 kilometres of roads have insufficient gravel and that future budgets for 2011–2014 will need over \$100,000 per year to continue this program.

The remaining 3.31 percentage points of the levy increase will fund service level increases and new initiatives including \$30,000 for the Fire Department reserves to fund the purchase of a new pumper truck in 2011, \$30,000 to repair the roof and increase storage in the public works building, longer hours for the library, increased hours for public works and the purchase of a software package and staff training to assist in securing grants. Some new initiatives arising from the strategic planning process last summer that will be implemented in the 2010 budget include more public meetings, improvements to the Township website, acquisition of an electronic fund transfer machine for processing payments and a follow-up program to assess the effectiveness of the Development Permit System on shoreline protection.

The plan to hire a community coordinator was dropped due to lack of public support. Ultimately the position was deemed to be outside core services and there was no room for extras in this budget.

A proposed 1,800 square foot expansion to the township office was deferred until after the municipal election. It would have

cost about \$480,000 and been financed through another \$500,000 debenture. That would have added a further \$61,700 each year for 10 years for debt repayment.

The addition was a very contentious budget item. In January the Lake of Bays Association wrote to council requesting that it demonstrate the need for an addition and recommending that it explore alternative solutions before a commitment to finance the expansion is considered. We also suggested that if the need for an office expansion was justified, a realistic budget and financing plan would be critical. Township reserves are not high enough to withstand a construction overrun and the ability to pay for increased operating costs must be considered.

The Association supports the deferral of these plans, as we do not want the Township to place a financial burden on our community, which is not forecast to grow significantly over the next 20 years. Some due diligence and careful planning is needed prior to embarking on such a significant capital project.

What does this budget mean to you, the taxpayer? Since MPAC has increased the assessment basis by close to 8 percent one would think that the tax rate should come down by 8 percent to offset this increase in assessment basis. Unfortunately, with a 10 percent increase in levy dollars needed, the tax rate will ultimately go up, not down. The impact on individual property owners depends on their assessments.

The Lake of Bays Association monitors the budget process closely and always champions accountability and transparency. Township staff is to be commended for a very clear presentation format at the finance and public meeting this year. This year we sent an email to our membership informing them of the public budget meeting and encouraging members to attend. If you would like to be included on our email list for the LAKE OF BAYS NEWSFLASH, please let us know at [info@loba.ca](mailto:info@loba.ca).

### District Budget Passes with 4 Percent Increase

On April 12th, District council passed a 4 percent general budget increase, which includes a 3.5 percent tax rate increase,

plus a 1.5 percent assessment base increase (a result of real growth in the area). This will mean a 2.3 percent increase per \$200,000 assessment, but does not take into account MPAC's 8 percent increase from reassessment, so what you pay will depend on how much your property's assessed value changed this year.

Last fall, council approved budget guidelines that included a target net levy increase of 4 percent above 2009, and staff presented a budget that delivered exactly that. Council approved a tax-supported budget of \$59.8 million that includes \$500,000 for capital financing of various area hospitals, \$1.7 million for a receiving facility at The Pines senior residence in Bracebridge, and \$14.6 million for an affordable seniors' housing project, also in Bracebridge. An \$8 million wellness centre is being proposed, likely to be incorporated into the receiving facility at The Pines. The most contentiously debated item in the budget was a proposal to hire an Economic Development Officer. Council rejected the \$110,000 plan.

The District of Muskoka represents the largest component of your property taxes—about 45 percent. The provincial education tax represents roughly 30 percent of your total tax bill and the Township of Lake of Bays is about 20 percent. Water, sewer and garbage costs are approved in the rate-supported budget and charged separately on your tax bill.

The Lake of Bays Association, represented by Bill Rogers, made a presentation to District council on April 6 in collaboration with the Muskoka Lakes Association and the Muskoka Ratepayers Association. All three property owner associations are unanimous in their concern about the steady increase in property taxes. We believe that the targeted increase of 4 percent was much too high—more than twice the rate of inflation. We have called for zero-based budgeting and urged council to re-examine all of its activities to see how they relate to the core services. We have also urged it cut costs that do not support core services.

Another area of concern is the level of the District's reserves, which the Lake of Bays Association feels are below what is

## The Opening of Lake of Bays Brewery

By Andrea Duncan, Chair Communications Committee



“It’s meant to be a good tasting summer beer,” said Darren Smith of the newest taste sensation to hit Lake of Bays. The Lake of Bays Brewery in Baysville opened on the May long weekend and is starting out by first offering a signature Pale Ale. “We designed this beer to be an affordable and approachable craft beer.”

Darren explained that he began to dream of opening his own brewery when he studied economics at McGill University. “Montreal has an active microbrewery community and I realized that starting a microbrewery was something I really wanted to do,” he said. Lucky for us, Smith’s dream has become a reality right here in Baysville.

Commercial beer may have additives and be watered down. Darren’s philosophy, however, is that beer is meant to be enjoyed and should be free of things like corn syrup or extra water to make it lighter. “Our beer is high quality and affordable,” he said.

To develop Lake of Bays Pale Ale, Darren made a variety of beers that his father was happy to try out in his role as Chief Tasting Officer. The Lake of Bays Brewery’s first beer has a golden amber colour, a citrus and flowery aroma and moderate malt sweetness with a slight roasted malt flavour.

The Lake of Bays Brewery had an inventory of 16,000 litres ready for the grand opening and is now able to produce 11,000 to 15,000 litres a week depending on

demand. The Lake of Bays Pale Ale is available in bars and restaurants in Muskoka and soon to be in the LCBO. Customers are also welcome to come into the retail store in Baysville, learn how beer is made, taste some or take home a case or a keg.

So what is next for the Lake of Bays Brewery? In the process of creating the Pale Ale, some early brews gave Darren and his team ideas for their next beer. We all wait with eager anticipation for our new brewery to bring out a second featured beer in the fall.

### New LOBA Sign on Hwy 117

This year, the Association decided to update our sign on Highway 117 just east of Baysville, near the Echo Lake Road so that residents and visitors to the Lake of Bays area know we are here. The new sign features a graphic photo with our logo and website. Pierre Falzon’s photo of a lone green canoe is one of this year’s photo contest winners. We thought that the photo did a great job at conveying the peace and tranquility of Lake of Bays. Be sure to take a look the next time you drive by!

## 2010 Tax Update

*continued from page 7*

prudently required particularly for roads. Funds required to increase these reserves should be generated through the reduction or deferral of expenditures wherever possible. The high cost of The Pines receiving facility and the lack of a clear business plan for the wellness centre are a concern because these expenditures have the potential to increase the financial burden on the District. Better planning and more spending constraint is needed. The District’s debt level remains at just under \$100 million. What will be the impact of these capital projects on the debt reduction plan that was initiated in 2009?

District Chair Gord Adams has said that the identification of core services would be a good starting point for future budget deliberations and welcomed input from the lake associations. The Lake of Bays Association will continue to participate in the budget process and hopes to work with the incoming council to achieve the most effective and efficient government possible for the District of Muskoka.



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