



The Loon's Call

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

SPRING/SUMMER
2013

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 be your new president and I've spent the last few months getting myself acquainted with the role and developing the goals that I would like the association to achieve in the next two years.

A little bit about me...I've been a seasonal resident since I was two weeks old at the Cane/Hutcheon family cottage on Gull Lake. I've been a part of the GSLRA Board of Directors for the last five years, starting as a Director at Large and then moving into the Director of Communications position. I decided to take a more active role five years ago because I believe as a resident it is important to have a stake in your lake. We have the ability to influence change on the issues that impact our lake and the association fights for the things the matter most to all of us like water quality, responsible land use, and provides a united voice to both the town and district on our residents concerns. I truly do look forward to working with everyone and continuing to develop a sense of community on our lakes!

But enough about me, in this issue, you'll find information regarding our upcoming Annual General Meeting,

information about the Bugs in the Mud initiative, and a special report on the Annual Antique Boat Show 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 and Greg & Roger Bertrand 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 really well.

Finally, our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **July 27 2013** at the Gravenhurst Senior's Centre starting with a meet and greet 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 all more personally.

As always, if you do have any concerns or questions please feel free to email us 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



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RENEW YOUR 2013 MEMBERSHIP!

The insert attached in the Spring/Summer Newsletter is the 2013 Membership Renewal form. If you have not paid for your 2013 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
July 27th, 9AM, Gravenhurst Seniors Centre



Race Boats Galore in Gravenhurst by Mary Storey, Volunteer Archivist

This summer has been unofficially acclaimed the summer of the Race Boat. The Antique and Classic Boat Society – Toronto will be featuring race boats from across North America at their Summer Boat Show. To compliment this event, Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre will have a large new exhibit on this same theme.

For the weekend of July 4-7th, the Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show at Muskoka Wharf is being billed as "The Greatest Race Boat Show in Canadian History," featuring over 100 historic and classic racing watercraft, offering a unparalleled opportunity to see, hear, smell and touch racing history. The feature boat is the newly restored *Miss Canada IV*, built at Greavette Boats in Gravenhurst in 1949. Others include Harmsworth Trophy winner, *Miss Supertest III* and Guy Lombardo's *Tempo VII* race boat.

At Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre, **Race Boat Glory ~ Muskoka Legends Live On** will be the new feature exhibit from mid-June to the end of October. This special collection will bring to life the owners, designers, builders, drivers – and of course the boats – that have given Muskoka a special place in the history of Canadian – and international – powerboat racing over the past 100 years.

The centrepiece of the exhibit will undoubtedly be *Miss Canada III (MC III)*. Built for the Wilson family by Greavette Boats in 1938, and driven by Harold and Lorna Wilson, *MC III* won the President's Cup in 1939, set a World Speed Record of 119 mph for her class in 1947, and won Detroit's Silver Cup Regatta in 1948 with an unofficial speed of 134 mph.

Complementing *Miss Canada III* will be extensive and entertaining exhibits highlighting prominent and historic race boats with connections to Muskoka. These include the Rainbow series built for the Greening family by Ditchburn Boats, the *Miss Canada* series built by Greavette Boats for the Wilson family, and the Thompson family's *Miss Supertest* series of champion racers. Other highlights of the exhibit include stories, trophies and movie footage of prominent and historic races, and exhibits of all manner and size of racing watercraft, from sea fleas upward. Also featured are new interactive displays, as well as the special activities for children.

Of course, not to be missed are the Gull Lake Races on June 22 and 23 organized by TORC (Toronto Outboard Racing Club).

For more information check out: www.acbs.ca, www.realmuskoka.com, www.torc.ca

A Win for the Gull Lake Waterfront! by Jonathan Hutcheon

On March 2nd, 2013, Elizabeth Palatics (resident of Silver Lake) gave a heartfelt and personal deputation to Gravenhurst Town Council regarding continuing to include funding for the Gull Lake Waterfront Aquatics and Safety program in the 2013/14 budget. Elizabeth, her family and supporters spent the majority of last summer getting support through signatures on petitions. Even before she presented her deputation, Town Council under immense public pressure decided to include the waterfront program in not only the 2013/14 budget but indefinitely. The Town now understands that the lifeguards not only provide a safe place for all to swim in Gravenhurst, but that they also clean the beach every morning, find lost children, and create a wonderful community atmosphere.

Thanks to Elizabeth, her family and all of you for your support!

Did your email address change?

Email us: gullsilverlakes@gmail.com

Bugs in the Mud: Part 2 by Pat Catleugh

Part 1 of Bugs in the Mud was completed in August 2011 with the details presented in the July AGM newsletter. August 2012 brought the sequel. The original players, or ahem, researchers, Wendy Hutchings, Carole Simpson and I were supplemented by Debbie Stephens and her sister, Vicki Kranenburg, from Calgary and my 7 year old granddaughter, Ella.

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.
- Judgements are made about the condition of lakes by com-

The second year's samples had to be acquired as close to the previous locations as possible which meant following a detailed map from last year, including identification of shoreline vegetation and trees. Carole's husband, Rand, assisted biological monitoring technician, Katie Paroschy, by paddling their boat along the shore. Outfitted in hip waders, Katie scraped the bottom of the lake to obtain three buckets full of water, including the bottom materials, which were then plopped into Rand's boat for relocation to the Simpson's deck.

We positioned ourselves around the table armed with tweezers, a sucker thing (not the technical term) and magnifying glasses. Each scoop was a possible source of aquatic invertebrates. Anything moving was retrieved and presented in Petri dishes to Katie. You might be surprised to know what is lurking in the lake just under your toes.

We searched enthusiastically. The specimens were too small to pick up without tools so it's quite a task in observation and dexterity. At least 100 specimens had to be taken from each bucket with Katie and her microscope completing the initial verification. All samples and data went with Katie to the District of Muskoka Watershed biotic data bank with the water going back into the lake.

Did you know that you can get seasick doing a magnifying glass search – Vicky did - So much for us entertaining a visitor. We found that it was easy to work and chat (surprise, surprise). After a long day, the study was completed, and here it is that I pause to thank everyone for completing the two-year study. It couldn't have been done without each one's efforts.

The initial results from Katie were: "Gull Lake is similar or above the Muskoka Averages. It appears that the ecosystem structure has changed slightly from last year, in where this year we saw a growth in the percent EOT (dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies and caddisflies), percent chironimids and percent predators and a slight drop in the percent collectors/gatherers. It is normal to see these indicators of stable water quality. You should all be proud of your efforts to maintain good water quality."



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 (fairy shrimp or amphipoda), mayflies and sow bugs. Items not seen in 2011, seen in 2012: 2 leeches, clam, damselfly and a stonefly
- Complete Data is available on the "Muskoka Water Web" website, under "Biological Monitoring Data" <http://muskokawaterweb.ca/1/1.1/biological.htm>

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 27, 2013 Gravenhurst Seniors' Centre, 480 First St. N. Gravenhurst

Come one, come all to the GSLRA 2013 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

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!

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Questions? Comments? Want to help out?

Email us: gullsilverlakes@gmail.com