

Box 189
Gravenhurst
Ontario
P1P 1T6

**South
Muskoka
Lake**
Community
Association

www.smlca.ca

Summer 2012 Newsletter

Taboo Floatation Docks

Subsequent to the resolution passed at the AGM in July 2011 respecting the continued failure of Taboo to meet its obligations under the Town/Taboo Agreement, we took photos of the docks on October 17 2011 and March 23 2012. This past winter the docks and breakwater were not removed from their summer location but merely shifted to consolidate their position, presumably as a precaution against winter storms.

We met with Jeff Watson our Town Councillor early in May to learn of steps taken by the Town and arranged a further meeting with Jeff and Scott Lucas, the Manager of Development Services, for additional detail. Scott's summary of the Town's actions for our newsletter is as follows.

“As you are aware, we had quite a staff turnover the past year or so and now that we are up to speed, we have the ability to allocate resources to ensure matters such as these are being addresses more proactively.

It was brought to our attention that the provisions of the Site Plan Agreement with Taboo respecting the placement and removal of docks has not been complied with. As a result I met with management representatives of Taboo on the site to;

- a) ensure that they were aware of the provisions(which they were not)
- and b) provide them with a copy of the signed site plan agreement (which they now possess)

There appeared to be a commitment to ensuring the provisions were being followed and I advised the staff will be very active in ensuring, amongst other matters, the appropriate dates for installation and removal being met.”

The docks are now in place for this summer with the breakwater unit in its 2011 position further out into the lake than indicated on the site plan agreement.

Clearly good progress has been made on this issue but questions remain.

Councillor Jeff Watson to attend AGM

Jeff Watson, our Ward 5 Councillor and Deputy Mayor has responded to our invitation to attend our AGM on Saturday July 28/12, 9.00 for 9.30 am at Grace and Speed.

Jeff writes: “ To members of the SMLCA I'm excited for the opportunity to meet with you and chat about what's been happening within the Town of Gravenhurst. I would also like to mention that the official ribbon cutting for our recreational facility is scheduled for July 10 at 10.30 AM. And I hope that some of you can come to this exciting event.

If there are any questions prior to the meeting don't hesitate to contact me at; jwatson17@cogeco.ca

“Here's to another great summer in Muskoka.”

SMLCA
Check out our Website
www.smlca.ca

President's Message

This past year has been one of considerable change for the Town of Gravenhurst and I know that Jeff Watson will be eager to review some of this with you.

The yearly Town Hall meeting early May was the first opportunity to meet the new CAO Frank Miele and to hear him explain at some length the new Town corporate work plan. The meeting itself was well organized with each association representative given a binder of information including the draft of Department Project Plans and a detailed 2012 First Quarter Management Report. Mayor Paisley Donaldson spoke with optimism!

Within our area of interest, the residents of Portage Bay were faced with the prospect of a new boathouse in their narrow bay when the Town passed the by-law in November 2011 permitting the construction of a boathouse. An appeal to the by-law filed by a neighbour was heard by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with a decision dated June 5 2012. The Board ordered that the appeal against the by-law is allowed (i.e. no boathouse) The judgement read in part “ there is a growing concern in Gravenhurst as in other areas of the province about the challenge of maintaining a natural shoreline environment. This in part is what the prohibition of boathouses in narrow waterways is all about”.

I personally was pleased with the OMB reasons and decision, given the recent history of boathouses in Gravenhurst and I applaud the actions of the residents of Portage Bay.

We had a very early spring with the ice out in late March ---some three weeks ahead of normal. However as of mid-June the water remains cool and the landscape is green with real summer weather expected and few bugs. Enjoy!

I hope to see many of you and your neighbours/friends at our AGM at Grace and Speed 9.00 for 9.30 am on Saturday July 28/12

Please assist in enlarging our membership. The Directors all have extra copies of this newsletter for any prospective members.

Have a safe summer! John Shaw

Taboo Pesticide and Nutrient Sampling 2010-2011

During our meeting this spring with Scott Lucas we discussed the Taboo monitoring program put in place on the completion of the Golf Course. This program appeared to have lapsed in 2008. We exchanged information with Scott and he contacted Taboo. They forwarded a copy of a report by Hutchison Environmental Sciences Ltd. dated Sept. 2011 written for Taboo Resort Golf and Spa entitled “Taboo Pesticide and Nutrient Sampling 2010-2011”

We have just received a copy of this report which requires careful review.

The comments of Scott Lucas are as follows.

“ The recommendations and conclusions indicate that the mitigation measures that are in place appear to be doing their job and no further testing is necessary. However it is clear that additional development, site alteration or changes to operation will need to be monitored.”

Communication Towers

New towers are being installed in Muskoka by Bell Media with one in the west Gravenhurst area. An attempt has been made to disguise the towers to look like native pine trees but they stand well above the tree line on the horizon!

Looking out from Sutherlands Point we can see one to the west, one to the north west between Whitt and Samatra Islands, and one to the north. There will be a total of 18 in Muskoka when the job is finished.

See how many you can see!

Don't Forget...

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Please mail or register your membership before the meeting.

Use the membership form and addressed envelope enclosed to renew for 2012.
Or, log on to our website at www.smlca.ca to renew for 2012.

MLA Water Testing

Al and Carol Ward are again conducting the MLA Water Testing program in the SMLCA area. Testing starts after a seminar which is held in each spring. The MLA president Brian McElwain spoke recently to Gravenhurst Council about the program and their continued concern with water quality in Muskoka Bay. The MLA has been actively monitoring the health of the lakes since 1966. In 2001 they initiated a science based program and to-day they test for E coli, calcium, clarity and phosphorus.

We again remind you of the Muskoka Watershed Council Report Card 2010 which states “the biggest unknown in watershed health is the impact of climate change.”

What will that mean in Muskoka?

For full background visit:
www.muskokawatershed.org

Benthic Testing Hoc Roc River

For the fifth year we are continuing to assist the District of Muskoka with their testing program on the Hoc Roc River. Katie Paroschy is the Bio-monitoring technician for 2012. We shall be sampling three sites on two days, Wednesday August 15 and Thursday August 16 at Muskoka Beach.

Our thanks to Ken Clements, Nancy Shaw and Katie Paroschy with the Stewardship Rangers who did the sorting and counting last year. Volunteers are needed again this year on both days.

Contact me at skshaw@sympatico.ca or at 705-687-4057.

District Official Plan Review

The District of Muskoka has begun a review of their Official Plan (O.P.) and they held an Open House to receive comments from the public. Our Director Stan Stein attended on behalf of SMLCA to indicate some of the details of our interest relating to the Taboo property, the Hoc Roc River and the Muskoka Beach Area.

Stan has confirmed his comments in writing and asked to be contacted regarding any proposed revisions to the District O.P. which could affect the Muskoka Beach or Taboo areas.

Muskoka Heritage Foundation Golf Day

The MHF Golf Day this year is on Monday
September 24/12 at the exclusive

OVIINBYRD GOLF CLUB

This is part of the MHF 25th Anniversary. Dinner by the club chef. Spaces are limited.
For more information go to
www.muskokaheritage.org

South Muskoka Lake Community Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre
Muskoka Wharf

9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 28, 2012

Refreshments will be served
beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Guests Welcome so invite your neighbours!

Meet Jeff Watson our Councillor.

Royal Mail Ship Segwun

The Steamship Segwun that we see every day at the cottage during the sailing schedule, celebrates her 125th anniversary this summer. A big event in itself with several special sailings to mark this milestone.

Wenonah II turns 10 and is about to retire its loan/mortgage!

Quoting from The Real Muskoka Story Winter 2011/2012 edition and written by the President Blair McMurchy (a Director of SMLCA)

---"we all have long known: that cruising aboard RMS Segwun or Wenonah II stands apart as a truly unique Canadian experience. The Muskoka Steamships' RMS Segwun and Wenonah II have been recognized with an award of excellence and now stand proud as part of their Signature Experience Collection. We are among only 115 chosen sites in Canada that have been designated to the world as a must-see experience event if

you are visiting Canada. And we are the only site chosen in the Muskoka region---

We strongly recommend the experience of taking a cruise to enjoy the ship and the waters that she plows!

The Segwun also serves a good lunch and dinner by North restaurant.

For more information:

www.realmuskoka.com

or 705-687--6667

Two Antique Boat Shows 2012

The date for the 32nd Annual Antique and Classic Boat Show is Saturday July 7/12 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at Muskoka Wharf, Gravenhurst. Admission Charged!

For more information go to; www.acbs.ca

The MLA Antique Boat Show will be held at the Port Carling locks on Sunday --- note— SUNDAY August 12/12. No admission charged. For more information call: 705-765-5723.

SMLCA Board of Directors 2012

President:	John Shaw	Sutherland Point Road	705-687-4057
Past President:	Anne Stanway	Muskoka Beach Road	705-687-6630
Secretary:	Ted Greig	Sutherland Point Road	705-687-5681
Treasurer:	Alan Ward	Brydon Bay Road	705-687-4349
Directors:	Catherine Guffey	Lightwood Island	705-687-8768
	Andrew McCraney	Cherrywood Lane	705-687-4016
	Blair McMurchy	Canary Island	416-931-4477
	Sheila Shaw	Sutherland Point Road	705-687-4057
	Stan Stein	Rusty Rock	705-687-8449
	Daniel Wilson	Cherrywood Lane	dwdan13@hotmail.com