July 1, 2015

Dear South Muskoka Lake Community Association Members,

We hope to see you at this year’s Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at Grace and Speed, Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre, 275 Steamship Bay Road, Gravenhurst, ON,  P1P 1Z9
at 9.00 (Coffee) for 9.30 start time. Please note that the MLA meeting is the day before ours at the same location. We know that you wouldn’t want to miss the SMLCA meeting and encourage you to attend both meetings if possible.

The issues facing our community this year have the potential to profoundly impact the future of our area. We are paying very close attention to the potential changes in the Gravenhurst Official Plan, shoreline development, and Taboo Resort development.

In the Town of Gravenhurst, approval has been granted for living quarters above a boathouse at the Tin Boathouse Development. Our concern is that this plan is too intense at the waterfront and sets a very bad precedent for other potential development along the shoreline. Pollution risks are greatly increased from this type of development; it also creates a dense, light polluted shoreline that detracts greatly from the natural features of the Muskoka Landscape. We ask everyone to please consider the impact that developments of this type will have on both the natural environment as well as on the overall feeling of the lake. At present the Muskoka Bay Property Owners Association are appealing the plan’s approval with the OMB.

Taboo Resort has demolished a substantial part of the hotel and is operating at approximately 55 percent.  Thus far Taboo has not applied for a building permit.  They are still working on redevelopment plans and hope to finalize something within the next few months.  The SMLCA directors are looking forward to seeing the plans.

According to Management, the new design will be within the current Gravenhurst planning guidelines Our hope is that it is also beautiful and environmentally sensitive with particular regard to light and sound emissions.

Taboo’s Boathouse Restaurant is under the management of North/Oar and Paddle. The Boathouse is open to the general public and welcomes SMLCA members. Golfers can take advantage of the resort’s great *Nine, or Eighteen, and Dine* promotion.

The town of Gravenhurst is very fortunate to be receiving a 2.2 million dollar investment in high- speed internet services which will make them among of the best-served communities in the Canada.

They have also passed the halfway mark on the roadworks on Muskoka Beach Road, which will provide new storm sewers and sidewalks.

Happily, the lake advocacy group *Safe Quiet Lakes* continues to make great progress with their educational boating campaigns. They recently surveyed over 2,300 people and found that Muskokans’ common concerns regarding boating are as follows: Boats going too fast and too close to shore; Loud boat engines; Large wakes; and Unsafe and inconsiderate boating. Their posters and programs will hopefully cause people to consider their boating practices as well as fostering a dialog among families and neighbors. For more information, you can go to their website: http://safequiet.ca/

We hope that you have visited our own website: <http://www.smlca.ca/> We welcome comments and submissions, including news, photos or Artwork of Muskoka. You can send us an email at southmuskokalakeCA@gmail.com

We thank you for your continued support of your Community Association. We try to represent your interests at Gravenhurst and District Councils and other agencies. We are always glad to receive input from our members.

You may pay your annual dues online via the website, or by mailing a check for $35 to South Muskoka Lake Community Association, Box 189, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1T6. You are also welcome to bring payment to the AGM.

Looking forward to seeing you on at our AGM on 25 July.

Sincerely,

Catherine Guffey

President, South Muskoka Lake Community Association