



Newsletter....

We need your feedback and input into this newsletter. Maybe you would like to write an article on your experiences on Morrison Lake, maybe a funny story or a family history on the lake, maybe you have a question or maybe you have something you wish to buy or sell. Once again with Issue #2 we will forward the newsletter to residents via email and by distributing hard copies, however as mentioned previously we would like to move to a paperless version as soon as possible. We can expedite the delivery of the newsletter by each resident sending their email address to:

morrisonlake@rogers.com

Should you be willing to provide input into the newsletter, please contact Paul Kelly at: kellysp@sympatico.ca or at (705) 687-5605.

Note: NEXT EDITION – WINTER 2009-2010 – Please submit articles by Nov.15, 2009

Get In Touch

Provide your email address and get regular updates on Morrison Lake at: www.morrisonlake.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

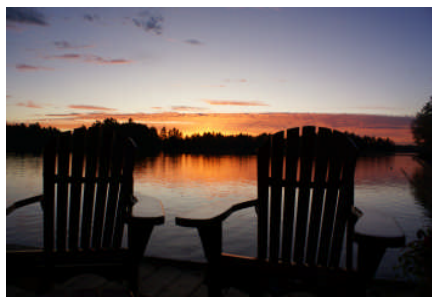
Gravenhurst Ward Boundary Review Consultation Meeting: Saturday October 3rd, 2009 9:00am – noon – Gravenhurst Opera House Trillium Court. All Morrison Lake Residents should attempt to attend.

MUSKOKA AUTUMN STUDIO TOUR:

October 3 and 4, 2009

www.muskokaautumnstudiotour.com

2010 Golf Tournament: Morrison Lake Golf & Dinner Saturday August 14, 2010 MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR



LAKE WATCH

Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association Presidents: Louise Pegg - dpegfamily@yahoo.com & Karen Fairbrass - marathonmom@sympatico.ca

Treasurer: Joanne Forth - joannef.43@gmail.com

Morrison Lake Website: www.morrisonlake.ca

Membership Fees \$25: Please send to...MLRA General Delivery, Kilworthy, Ont. P0E1G0

DID YOU KNOW ???

HYDRO OUTAGE: Should your electricity go out, you should report the outage to Hydro One by phoning: 1-800-434-1235. By leaving your phone number or Account # on the automated system you can continue to monitor the expected time your service will be restored.

BEARS: Should you observe a bear in or around your residence you should consider reporting the incident to the Ministry of Natural Resources on the Bear Reporting Line: 1-866-514-2327. The local office in Bracebridge will call you to get more details and will issue a report number.

“MELODY ISLAND MEMORIES”

by D. Lynn Coulter

Lynn Coulter contacted the newsletter to inform us she has just released a new book which may be of interest to the residents of Morrison Lake. Lynn is the daughter of Dorothy Boddington. The book describes the history of the Boddington Family on the lake between 1929 through to the late 1960's.

The Boddingtons populated the south shore and Walter Edward Boddington owned Melody Island (Bonnet Island). When he died he left the island to Dorothy who owned it from 1948 to 1968. At one point there were 26 Boddington relatives on the lake. The most well known was Gordon who operated a store on the south shore. This is a story of an immigrant family which started from one little shoemaker in England to now over 800 descendants spread around the world. Read about the early times of one of the founding families of Morrison Lake.

The book is available at the Gravenhurst Book Store, 120 Muskoka Rd. South. The phone number for the store is (705) 687-0555. “Melody Island Memories” sells for \$30.00.



SNOWMOBILING IN MUSKOKA

It was a snowmobile, and Glen Debes, that put in countless hours of work setting two cross country ski loops around Morrison Lake last winter. I have talked with Glen and he will be setting the ski paths again this winter for those who come up and enjoy getting out on the skis. It runs across the main bay, around back of Mile Island, through the narrows at King's beach, along the shoreline of Evanswood Dr. and continues along Balfour Woods Estates area and then reconnects to itself. For anyone that has a snowmobile on Morrison Lake please do your best to keep your sled off of these set paths as it messes them up for the skiers. (Thanks.)

For those that would rather snowmobile than ski, it is an enjoyable way to spend some time outside at the lake in the winter. Although we spend countless hours on the lake in the summer, winter is a time to explore the lake and surrounding area in a totally different way. And see things that there is no way of seeing in the summer.

Local snowmobile clubs have maintained snowmobile trails in Muskoka and surrounding areas for over 30 years. The clubs of the Muskoka region maintain a 1600-kilometre network of trails covering some of Ontario's most scenic landscape. The clubs are members of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), which represents the 250 local snowmobile clubs who operate and maintain over 43,000 kilometres / 26,000 miles of snowmobile trails throughout Ontario.

An extensive network of trail signs assist riders in finding their destination over the 17 Snowmobiling regions of the OFSC. Snowmobilers are reminded that Ontario Trail Permits are required on all OFSC Trails. Three day, week and seasonal trail permits are available. Snowcrest Riders Snowmobile Club head office is located at 685 Muskoka Road North, Gravenhurst. Call the Office at 705-687-7921 or 1-800-829-6444

Please support the local club by “buying where you ride”. In the case of Morrison Lake, we fall under the area maintained by Snowcrest Riders Snowmobile Club in riding district 7. It is especially important to the Muskoka Snowmobile Region because this region has some of the busiest trails in the system. That translates into higher costs to maintain the system to the standard riders expect. The ability to maintain these trails rests solely on the number of permits that are sold. Each permit sold works out to approximately one hour of groomer operation. Please support the Muskoka Snowmobile Region and the Trail Guide advertisers. Remember - revenue generated by their advertising support goes right to the trails. Visit the Snowcrest web site and click on the permits tab to see a list of all the locations that support the local club by selling trail permits.

Since a volunteer base does most of the work, such as repairing bridges, clearing trails of debris, packing the trails for the larger groomers to run on etc. the permit money goes directly into grooming. So when permits are bought where you ride, more dollars go to the grooming budget in our Morrison Lake area. Remember when riding that a large portion of trail is in existence due to the generosity of private landowners. Meaning without them, the trail system would not be here. So please, stay on the trails, leave only your track marks and take nothing but pictures. Respect the property you ride on and obey all signage.

Use the following as a reference only. It is each individual's responsibility to know the laws with regards to Snowmobiling.

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90m44_e.htm

The Local Snowmobile Club's web page

<http://snowcrestriders.com/>

The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs main page.

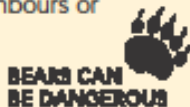
<http://www.ofsc.on.ca/>

If you get a chance to try it out. Go Snowmobiling it's fun.



Keep bears out of your neighbourhood.

You may not even know you are doing it. You could be attracting bears onto your property and into your community. Garbage is the main reason why bears are drawn into communities. Bird and pet food, greasy barbecues and ripe or decaying fruit, berries and vegetables are other invitations to bears to forage for food in your yard. This is not good for you, for your neighbours or for bears.



In an immediate emergency, call your local police or 911. To report bear problems call:

1 866 514-2327

(1 866 514-BEAR)

TTY 705 945-7641

For more information, visit our website:

ontario.ca/bearwise

Problems with bears are usually created by people. By following these tips every spring, summer and fall, you can avoid attracting bears to your property:

Garbage:

- Eliminate odours. Put garbage in containers that have tight fitting lids, and only put it out on the morning of garbage day, not the night before
- Whenever possible, store garbage in bear-resistant containers, or indoors (house, shed, garage). Do not store garbage in plywood boxes, old freezers or vehicles
- Put meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day
- If you do not have curbside pick up, take your garbage to the dump often
- Frequently wash garbage cans and recycle containers and lids with a strong smelling disinfectant

Bird/Pet food:

- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months
- Do not leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors, not outside or in screened in areas or porches

Fruits/Vegetables/Compost:

- Avoid landscaping with trees, shrubs or plants that produce food known to attract bears (some examples include crab apple trees, mountain ash, beech and oak)
- Do not put meat, fish or sweet food (including fruit) in your composter
- Remove vegetables and fallen fruit from the ground
- Pick all ripe fruit from trees and bushes

Smells:

- Be aware that cooking odours can attract bears
- Remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills, including the grease cup underneath, after each use

Learn about bears, their needs and behaviour. Share your knowledge with others. Encourage your neighbours and your community to practice Bear Wise habits. It takes everyone working together to keep bears away.

For more information about bears, see our Fact Sheets "Bears travel far for food" and "Bears are part of our natural heritage".

There's more ...
see over!



Report on Ward Review Proceedings at Gravenhurst Council August 6, 2009 (without prejudice)

Summary:

Council after extended debate voted to **approve the hiring of consultants to review the ward boundaries** and recommend an effective and equitable system of representation for the town.

The review will be conducted according to the principles the citizen representatives laid out in their deputation of July 24. These are: equity or parity, simplicity, accountability and accessibility, communities of interest, population growth, straightforward boundary lines and appropriate size of council. The consultants' report is to provide options and make a recommendation to Council.

Overall Comments:

The proposal to review and change the wards now goes back 2 council terms, 6 years. Councillors have delayed on and refused to make change and turned down proposals for change. Some are now trying to introduce 2 red herrings into the discussion: the first that this public request for change is an attack on their competence and second that the town's tender process must be adhered to. **Neither of these concerns address the petition request.** They put themselves in this position of tight time frames. The public is concerned about fairness and equity not the individual performance of councillors.

Why are the Pilgers, Clairmont and Wilson still opposed to change? There was lot of huffing and puffing and heated debate and not much listening or opening of minds.

We will keep you posted on the process as it continues.

Remember the **public open house October 3**

Detail report.

The clerk presented 2 motions to council. The first was to hire a consultant to conduct a review for a cost between 10 and 25 thousand dollars. The second was to exempt her from the requirement to tender the service due to the tight time frames.

The discussion opened with a brief summary of the situation and of the need for immediate action. The time line proposed would have a **public open house on October 3** to look at the options and provide comments. The final report and council vote would be October 20.

Councillors had the following discussion:

Sandy Cairns: she felt staff did not have the time to do this. But thought spending 25 thousand was not right.

Mark Clairmont: wants to deal with it internally. A committee of council could look into options. Wanted to table an amendment to just change the number of councillors in certain wards. (reporter note: he voted against this change when it was proposed in a formal motion on April 7) He perceives that this is about the public thinking that councillors are not doing a good job and this offends him. He misses the whole point about equity and fairness. He feels that there will not be an OMB challenge. He verbally opposed the contract then changed his mind to support it and agreed to waive the tender process.

Paisley Donaldson: Council still does not get the message. The citizens have given clear direction. It is time to review the wards. Just get on with it. Council has shown it cannot make a decision. This has been in the strategic plan for 2 terms of council. We have done this to ourselves and now must deal with it.

Lou Guerriero: Council has no choice under the municipal act. Council must act. People are not questioning the performance of individual councillors.

John Klinck: feels the expert will make a fair assessment and he will come back with several options and Council will make the decision. Citizens have executed their right and it will cost more to go to the OMB than to do this study. He feels that there is a strong chance of an OMB challenge if council does not act. People are still asking where they can sign the petition. They want this change.

Bryan Pilger: opposed to spending money. Does not see the need for change. Could have all councilors elected at large and no wards.

Terry Pilger: reviewed the petition which says the citizens want the boundaries changed. Council cannot be wishy washy about this.. If the public doesn't like what council does they can still go to the OMB. He thinks council can do this work with staff support as it will not take much time. At the vote stage he emphasized procedural matters such as the order of the vote and whether the chair has a vote.

Tracy Wilson: wants to know why cost has gone up to 25 thousand. (reporter note: this was the original estimate of the clerk at budget time)

How they voted

Those who voted to let the contract: for Cairns, Clairmont, Donaldson, Guerriero, Klinck. opposed were B. Pilger, T. Pilger and Wilson.

Those who voted to let the contract without tender: for Cairns, Clairmont, Donaldson, Guerriero, Klinck. opposed were B. Pilger, T. Pilger, Wilson.

Lola Bratty

Based on notes taken by the GGRA at the council meeting

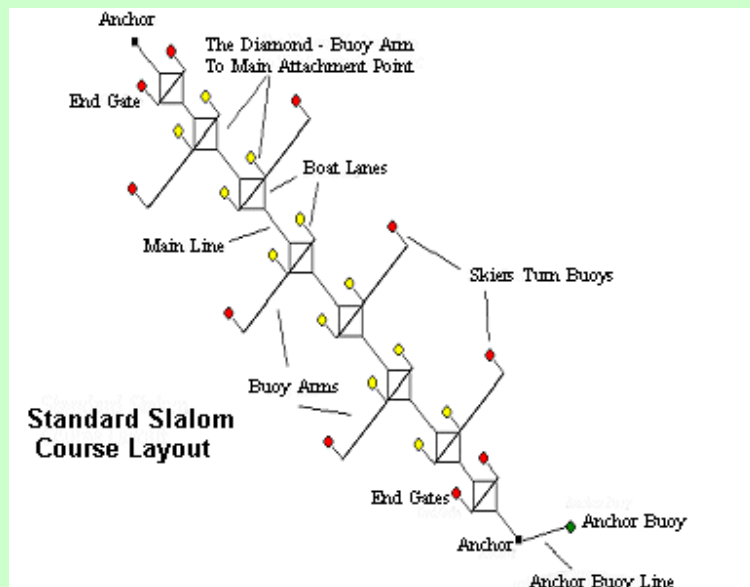
The Morrison Lake Water Ski Course

Submitted by Gord Kobe

For those of you wondering what all the balls in the water are for, it's a water ski course for slalom skiing.

The course is approved by the Canadian Coast Guard for that location and can't be moved from its approved location. It is there for the enjoyment of all water skiers to try and hone their skills. The Morrison Lake Rate Payers Association went through all the work to get the course approved for the lake for that specific location. It's an anchored cable course that gets lowered each fall and raised each spring by volunteers.

This is what the course looks like under water. It is cabled and uses plastic tubing to hold both sets of skier buoys the proper distance from the boat lanes. We have added a second set of skier turn buoys between the outside gates and the boat lane buoys for the purpose of beginning course skiers and the younger crowd.



Do:

Use it. Challenge your skills. The course is available for all persons on the lake to use for the purpose of slalom skiing. Period. That is it's sole purpose and the reason the ratepayers association went through the work to place the course.

And remember, we all started water skiing the same way, as a beginner. So respect those trying to learn as well. That beginning skier could be the next Canadian champion.

If you decide to try it, then you must also take on the responsibility of preserving it. If you are using the course and you damage it, please...repair it. This way the course is ready for the next skiers and is kept in good repair. (Carry long plastic tie wraps in the boat) If a ball is pulled off through normal use then please use a tie wrap to affix the ball back to the course. There are many members of the ratepayers association that are familiar with the course that you can ask for information about its use and how it is repaired, etc. Please don't just let the buoys drift away they are not that cheap to replace.

If you can't repair it, return the ball to the current Association President.

Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association Co-Presidents:

Louise Pegg - dpegfamily@yahoo.com 1034 Long Point Dr. (red MasterCraft on East side of Lake, opposite the ski course), 687-0613

Karen Fairbrass - marathonmom@sympatico.ca Bell Island, 687-4143

If either can't be reached you can drop the ski balls off at my home, 1164 South Morrison Lake Rd. Or call and leave a message at 705-687-4149 and someone will come by and pick it/them up. It is appreciated.

Fishermen, We all know the lake is to be enjoyed by everyone, but this is the only course on the lake. So if a group of skiers come in to ski please move off to the side. We can't force you to, but it would be nice. You don't have to leave the area, but just slip off to the side and free up that area. It can be entertaining in many ways to watch. If you do find yourself in the course or at either end please be considerate of other people's love for their sport and move off to the side. Think of having only one location to fish and then all the boats from the lake using that space for water sports.

Cottagers, PLEASE, if you see the course being used for anything other than what it is intended for, feel free to address it there and then. Please educate others by kindly asking them not to use the course for other than slalom skiing. If you do it in a nice way you will not encounter hostilities. I have yet to have anyone give a hard time back when explaining the purpose of the course and the risks of course and boat damage by using it for anything other than skiing.

Do Not:

Please do not use the course as boat anchorage.

Please do not tamper with or alter the course.

Please, if possible, do not fish in the course, or at either end, as this is where the boat line is and you could potentially snag the course cable or the anchor lines and lose valuable tackle, especially if you are trolling. By the time you realize you are snagged, your line could be broken already and \$\$ gone on valuable tackle.

Please, do not swerve back and forth around the balls in any boat, personal watercraft or any other powered device. This is not the purpose of the course and doing so cannot only damage the course, but your vessel as well if you snag a cable. As well swerving around the gates over and over is not being considerate to the cottagers that live along the course.

Here area couple of good sites to visit, for information and rules.

<http://www.waterski-wakeboard.ca/>


<http://www.waterskimag.com/index.jsp>

MORRISON LAKE.....DAYS GONE BY.....

Do you remember the times when Morrison Lake was known for barefoot skiers? Can you name the skiers?



Picture provided by Ken & Joan Pajunen.

 Ministry of
Natural
Resources
Ontario

MORRISON LAKE

District of Muskoka Wood Township

PHYSICAL DATA			
LATITUDE	44° 52'	LONGITUDE	79° 27'
SURFACE AREA	614 acres	VOLUME	8,085 acre feet
HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL	750 feet	PERIMETER	10 miles
MAXIMUM DEPTH	55 feet	MEAN DEPTH	13.2 feet

HISTORICAL INFORMATION
It is reported that the lake was named after Angus Morrison, the Member of Parliament for the North Simcoe riding in 1854.

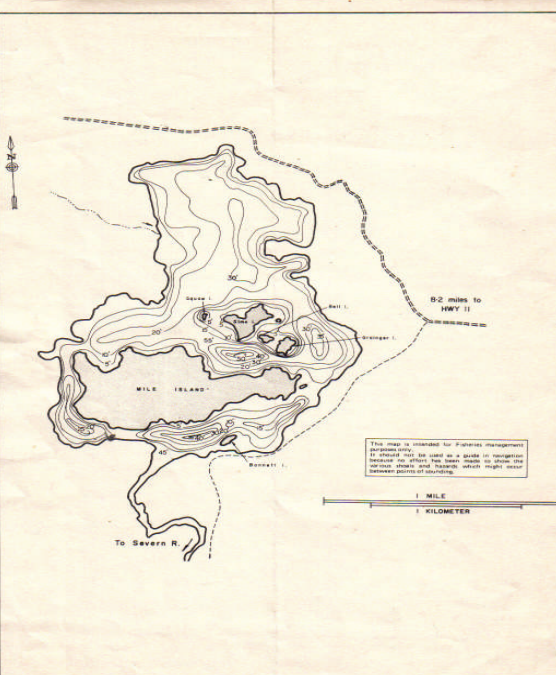
LAKE CHARACTERISTICS
The lake was thermally stratified at the time of survey and the mid thermocline temperature layer occurred between the fifteen and thirty-five foot contours. Water temperatures ranged between 68° F. at the surface and 43° F. at the bottom. The dissolved oxygen content varied from 9.0 parts per million at the surface to 4.0 parts per million at a depth of fifty feet. A mean total dissolved solids concentration of 23 parts per million was determined. Water clarity was indicated by the disappearance of the secchi disc from view, 9.0 feet below the surface. The pH values, (all readings exceeded 8.0) indicated an alkaline water characteristic.

FISH SPECIES PRESENT
Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, lake herring, white sucker, trout perch and rock bass.

FISHING
Bass are caught in the bays and around the islands. Fishing for perch is fairly widespread. Panfish such as rock bass and pumpkinseed are caught regularly over much of the lake.

ACCESS AND FACILITIES
Easiest access is from Highway No. 11 along Southwood Road to the lake. Southwood Road is 15 miles north of Orillia. At Morrison Creek landing, there is a large marina, south of the lake providing accommodation for boats from Severn River and Morrison Lake.

SURVEY DATES
JUNE 14-17, 1968.
THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS VALID AS OF JUNE, 1968.
CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
COPIES OF THIS MAP ARE AVAILABLE AT LOCAL MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICES.



To Severn R.

71L4

Picture provided by John & Terry Velinga.

Pictures of Morrison Lake history are appreciated