

The Laker

Morrison Lake News

ISSUE 14

SUMMER

2013



Happy Canada Day

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

Get In Touch

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's back again...

Morrison Lake Regatta:

August 3-5, 2013

Thank you Jenny Fairbrass for coordinating the Regatta again this year.

(See attached DRAFT schedule of events)

It's back again too.....

2013 Golf & Dinner:

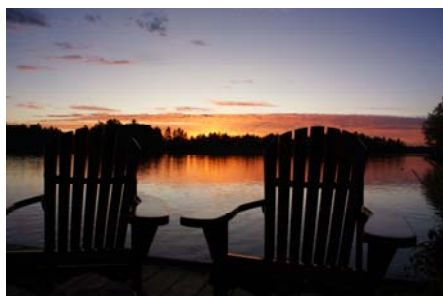
Morrison Lake Golf & Dinner

Saturday August 17, 2013

MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Thank you Peter & Judi Burkitt for coordinating the Golf & Dinner again this year.

(See attached details)



LAKE WATCH

President: Daren Boydell.....darenboydell84@gmail.com

Vice President: Gord Kobe.....gordkobe@hotmail.com

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

Secretaries: Chelsea Doyle & Katharine Forth...cdoyle@rgenta.com

Membership Fees \$25: Please send to...MLRA, General Delivery, Kilworthy, Ont.
P0E 1G0

Memories of Morrison Lake...

In this issue The Balfour Manor Camp is featured. We offer a special thank you to Jennifer Code for providing the historical background and pictures.

We are looking for more submissions on historical aspects of Morrison Lake. It is important to remember the past and those that pioneered the early days on the lake. If your family began visiting Morrison Lake during the 1900's please consider forwarding to me the historical background and pictures.

I am looking for a submission for the fall newsletter and upcoming editions. Your support in this endeavor is appreciated.



Did you know.....

August Long Weekend - The Chops
For the 11th Year 'The Chops' will be entertaining Morrison Lake at Ross and Miragh Bitove's on Sunday afternoon/evening. All are welcome to come and anchor or join us on-land starting around 4:30pm. The evening set starts after dinner and 'of age' Morrison Lakers are welcome to dock and join in the fun.
(Beside old store - South Morrison Lake Rd) **Ross Bitove**

Did you also know....there is a dinosaur on the lake? Eric lives on the backside of Mile Island. Keep your eyes open. He likes to hide behind the trees at the top of the hill.

ROAD SIGN REMOVALS

Recently several road signs have been removed by vandals in our area. The Evanswood Dr. /South Morrison Lake Rd. and the Flannigan Trail/South Morrison Lake Rd signs disappeared. This resulted in a potentially serious situation on the July long weekend where a resident of our lake required EMS support and the EMS workers were delayed finding the residence due to the Evanswood Dr. sign being removed.

Should you be aware of anyone removing these signs please contact the Town of Gravenhurst Roads Dept. as soon as possible.

These signs along with ER numbers are critical for emergency support.

ASSOCIATION DUES 2013

All residents/cottagers of Morrison Lake are requested to join the Morrison Lake Rate Payers' Association. Your \$25 dues can be paid at the Regatta or by mail to:

***MLRA, General Delivery,
Kilworthy, Ontario, POE
1G0.***

Cheques should be made payable to: ***Morrison Lake Rate Payers' Association***
Your dues contribute toward the website, the newsletter, insurance and this regatta!!!

How About Some Volleyball?

Regatta Volleyball is still on at the Tsioros's and Engleheart's cottages. 1051 and 1067 North Morrison Lake Road. 12:45 pm start on the Saturday August 3 and Sunday August 4. All volleyball entries need to be texted to Nick at 416 526 0722 before the start of the tournament. Please identify the team name and the contact person for the team.

Barbeque and drinks will be on sale during the volleyball tourney so please bring your money for food and help support your lake association. nt.ksnr@gmail.com or text at 416 526 0722.

Morrison Lake Regatta 2013

Saturday, August 3

7:30—9:00 - Waterski Competition

**Titus Dock
(Fairbrass)**

**10:30 - Morrison Lake Marathon (3km)
Balfour Woods Rd Start by Common Area
(Pegg)**

**Volleyball Tournament Registration - See
bulletin board for details**

1:00—3:30

Silent Auction

50/50 Raffle (drawn at Swim Sprints)

Accepting Membership fees

Fish Pond (Chelsea Doyle)

**1:00-1:30 - Junior Olympics (4+)
(Sims/Fisher)**

**1:30-2:00 - Scavenger Hunt
(Kobe)**

**2:00-2:30 - Balloon Toss
(Chelsea Doyle)**

**2:30—3:00 - Hula Hoop Contest
(Megan Kobe)**

**3:00-3:30 - Limbo Contest
(Chelsea Doyle)**

7:00 - Ski Show

**In front of the ski jump (North side of the lake)
Location may change due to weather
(McGillivray)**

Sunday, August 4

10:00 - Across the Lake Swim

**Start location at Sims Island, end at Doyle's
Beach**

**11:00 - Swim Sprints
Doyle's Beach**

**12:00 - Canoe Races/Lunch at the Beach
Doyle's Beach**

1:00 Volleyball Finals

Monday Aug 5

Bike Ride

Call Gord - 687-4149

Treat the property as you would your own.

**Please avoid boating during the waterski show
(Sat 7-8) and the swim (Sunday 10-11)**

***Unless otherwise stated all events are held at
1075 North Morrison Lake Rd.***

Contact Persons: Jenny 613-929-4418

jenny_fairbrass@hotmail.ca

**Please—NO GLASS - NO PETS –
Membership dues will be collected: \$25**

**A BIG THANK YOU....
To the Burns and Doyle Families
To all the volunteers and participants
To those who donated prizes**

MEMORIES OF MORRISON LAKE

The story of.....BALFOUR MANOR CAMP

Morrison Lake has seen many cottagers over the past century, but between 1935 and 1952 it was the site of a children's summer camp. After the camp closed the main building and some of the cabins burned, and other cabins were converted into cottages. The site of the main building and waterfront were uninhabited for many years, until the homes of Balfour Woods Estates were built.

The camp's name was Balfour Manor Camp, named after Lord Balfour, and was directed by Irene Granovsky. It was a private camp for Jewish youngsters from the very young ages of 4 or 5 to teenagers, both boys and girls. The camp's goals were typical of the Muskoka summer camps of the era: to teach canoeing, swimming, tennis, horseback riding and canoe-tripping as well as the necessary skills to get along with others in a cabin. There was a religious service every Saturday morning, with singing and reading of the scriptures. Those who did not know Hebrew were given the words written phonetically in English script. Everyone dressed in white.

At any one time there were 200 or so campers in camp. Campers met at Union Station, eager to begin the ride to camp. After what seemed like a very long journey indeed, they arrived at Kilworthy Station, where trains used to stop to let off or pick up passengers on request. Buses took them from the station to the camp. They slept in cabins, and were kept busy during the day with all the activities offered. Older campers went on canoe trips in their red canoes to places such as Gloucester Pool, Lake Huron and Port Carling. A former head of canoeing remembers how heavy and waterlogged those canoes could become, and how difficult to portage.

In those years there were many campsites along the way where they could set up camp for a night, so unlike today, when camp directors must rent camping spots on a Muskoka lake, or send the canoe trips to Algonquin Park. These were the days before sleeping bags. Bed rolls were made from blankets and rubber ground sheets, rolled up tightly with the ground sheet as a sleeve, and wound snugly with rope so that they would be waterproof. To make up the bed, one arranged the sheets and blankets and then enclosed them within two ground sheets held together by huge blanket pins.

The camp was known for its year-end productions, such as Oklahoma and the Mikado, directed by Anton Diffring, a professional actor, who had acted in many movies. Campers and counsellors rehearsed for four to five weeks to ensure that the productions were of top quality. Camp sessions were longer then, with many campers staying for the entire summer. Parents and cottagers enjoyed attending each year. Many acting careers began at Balfour Manor.

After Anton Diffring left, Jan Rubes took over as the drama director. Jan was an opera singer and actor, who later played the patriarch in the movie, Witness. He had been a tennis star in his native Czechoslovakia, and while competing in Switzerland, sought asylum with only his tennis whites to his name. He was supported by the Salvation Army until his uncle Deymel was able to bring him to Toronto. The camp founder and director, Irene Granovsky, Mrs. G to her staff and campers, was a true Renaissance woman, who could do anything she set her mind to, and who had the energy to carry out all her projects. She also was a very soft touch, giving in to appeals from campers for later bed times and other privileges. Mrs. G would have left a whirlwind in the dust behind her. For twenty years she ran the Hadassah fashion show, even in later years, when she was not well. Then she directed the show by phone. In one of her homes she wanted a spiral staircase. When the contractor did not know how to build one, she taught him how. Prior to 1935 she ran a day camp on Lake Simcoe. When she decided she wanted to establish an overnight camp she found a large tract of land on Morrison Lake, bought it, and set up her camp. The main building was built around an existing log cabin. She thought it looked like an

English manor, hence the second name of the camp. Her husband, Ted, known as Doc G, was a dentist. He worked during the week in the city, but arrived each Friday evening to take charge of maintenance. He had constructed all the buildings himself. Campers were eager to see him arrive, for his trailer was piled high with parcels sent by parents - totally unnecessary, because Mrs. G made sure that the camp food was of top quality, and plentiful. The flag lowering ceremony would come to a rapid end when Ted arrived.

Although the food was excellent, one item was missing: ice cream. Irene could never get any because all of it went to the prisoners of war camp in Gravenhurst; this was a source of irritation to her.

During the Second World War the camp carried on as usual, keeping things as normal as possible, even though the adults were well aware of what was happening. Their swim instructor, Cliff Fotheringham, died at Dunkirk in the ocean after swimming to save several of his comrades. Irene was seen to cry only once. She had gone to Ottawa to plead with the government to let her sponsor a family so that they could escape the carnage in Europe. She was refused, and all of them later died in the Holocaust.

One summer they had a camper who had been hidden in an outhouse when the Nazis came to her protectors' home. After the war she joined her extended family in North Bay, speaking no English. They sent her to camp, and at the end of the summer had learned enough English to stand in front of the other campers and recount her wartime experiences.

In later years Irene's son, Jack, began to help with the running of the camp. The family decided to close it in 1952. More cottages and homes have since been built, and the site is once again bustling with activity.

Submitted by Jennifer Code December 2012

With thanks to:

Sandy Braudy

Shelagh Granovsky Smith

Ken Smookler

Linda Waldman

Balfour Manor Camp Main Building



Water Front – now the site of the home of Glen & Geraldine Debes



Irene & Ted Granovsky



On Wednesday July 3, 2013, Paul Kelly had the privilege of meeting at the Gravenhurst Farmers' Market, Sheldon Friedland, who now cottages on Muskoka Bay, but attended the Balfour Manor Camp during his youth from 1935 – 1950.



Morrison Lake Annual Golf & Dinner

Saturday, August 17, 2013

**Enjoy 9 Holes of Golf at Lake St. George Golf Course
with Dinner to follow at the Clubhouse**



Golf tee times will begin at 1:00 pm

COCKTAILS: 5:00 pm (Cash Bar)

DINNER: 6:00 pm

MENU

Caesar Salad & Rolls
Spring Mixed Salad – 3 choices of dressings
Mixed Vegetable Pasta Salad
Baked Potato with sour cream, etc.
10 oz. Steak (BBQ your own)
Assorted Dessert Tray – Tarts & Cupcakes
Coffee and Tea



NOTE: Please don't forget to bring your donations to the Food Bank

Sign up **NOW** for good fun, good food and a good time with friends and neighbours.
We would like to see even more turn out this year.

Payment is due upon registration

Tee off times will be assigned to you starting at 1:00 pm

Golf & Dinner \$60.00 Dinner Only \$30.00
Golf Only \$30.00 (includes golf & cart)

DINNER SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Contact & Registrations

Peter & Judi Burkitt burkittjudi@gmail.com
1063 Evanswood Drive, Kilworthy ON P0E 1G0

705-242-7976



MORRISON LAKE ANNUAL GOLF AND DINNER Saturday, August 17, 2013

Registration Form

GOLF: Lake St. George
Time: Tee times will begin at 1:00pm

DINNER: Lake St. George Clubhouse
Time: Cocktails at 5:00pm
Dinner at 6:00pm
Followed by prizes

Golf & Dinner: \$60 per person
Golf only: \$30 per person (includes golf & cart)
Dinner only: \$30 per person

Please complete & submit to Peter & Judi Burkitt at 1063 Evanswood Dr.
For more information please call us at 705-242-7976
or email burkittjudi@gmail.com



Golf & Dinner _____ Golf Only _____ Dinner Only _____

Names for golf: _____

Names for dinner: _____

Contact information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

(Note: Registrations should be submitted to Peter & Judi by August 6, 2013)

Everyone is asked to bring donations to give to the Foodbank in Gravenhurst.



MORRISON LAKE GOLF PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association

MEETING: Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association
DATE: Sunday, May 19, 2013 @ 1:00pm
PLACE: North Morrison Lake Road Landing
RECORDER: Gord Kobe

Issue	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1. Welcome	President welcomed everyone. Various safety concerns were discussed re: boating on lake and alcohol. MLRA encourages all laws to be followed.	Daren Boydell
2. Declarations of any items to be added to the agenda	None	Daren Boydell
3. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting	Karen Fairbrass was not in attendance, therefore the minutes were not available for approval. Steve Titus motioned that the minutes would be approved at the September 2013 meeting: Steve Titus 1st, (and second?)	Daren Boydell
4. Regrets	Karen Fairbrass	Katharine Forth and Chelsea Doyle
5. Treasurers Report	<p>As of Apr 30 there was \$4,221.33 in the bank acct. Insurance is paid for the year. Remained unchanged at \$1,168.56. FOCA is still to be paid at approx \$250. No other major bills until the Regatta.</p> <p>Regatta made 709.55. The breakdown is as follows:</p> <p>\$675.00 - dues collected 221.00 - silent auction less \$186.45 for port-a-potty rental Profit of \$709.55</p> <p>Joanne asked if the \$100 donation to South Muskoka Memorial Hospital will still be in effect for 2013. It was determined that two people have passed away and \$100 will be donated in their names.</p> <p>John Kelly motioned to approve the treasurers report: Steve Titus 2nd, all in favour.</p>	Joanne Forth
6. Secretary's Report	Karen Fairbrass was not in attendance.	Katharine Forth and Chelsea Doyle

7. Elections	<p>Questions were raised about Daren Boydell remaining as President. Discussion ensued. John Kelly asked if Daren would step down, allowing Gord Kobe to become President and Daren become Vice President. Ralf Buschke mentioned that in the past, the succession has been that the Vice President becomes President when the President steps down. Daren opted to stay on as President, stating he would become more involved. Daren has agreed that at the September meeting he will step down if he has not fulfilled the role of President properly.</p> <p>Karen Fairbrass has formally resigned as secretary via email. Katharine Forth volunteered to be secretary but would be unable to attend the meetings due to work obligations. Chelsea Doyle volunteered to co-secretary with Katharine Forth. Geraldine motioned to have Katharine Forth and Chelsea Doyle co-secretary: Steve Titus 2nd, all in favour.</p>	Daren Boydell
8. Standing Items		
Dues Collection and Online Banking Options	<p>Joanne turned the floor over to Geraldine Debes on the subject of unpaid 2012 dues from Balfour Woods. Geraldine acknowledged that the 2012 dues have not been paid but that a small handful of Balfour Woods residents don't pay dues. Over the last few years, the Balfour Woods fund has been topping up the MLRA dues to offset the difference owing. Geraldine has suggested that the dues owing for 2012 be considered paid, due to this "topping up". Joanne and Geraldine will work together to create a list of cottages in Balfour Woods and determine what amount is still owing for 2012.</p> <p>Joanne and Geraldine have been researching a new business bank account that would allow dues to be paid online. Our current bank account with The National Bank does not allow for online banking but is very inexpensive to operate. Geraldine suggested a discount rate for dues paid in advance, rather than a new business bank account. Nothing was determined.</p>	Joanne Forth and Geraldine Debes

Regatta	<p>Jenny Fairbrass has volunteered to run the regatta again this year, however she cannot be in attendance on the August long weekend so she is looking for volunteers. Jenny has stated she will send out an email asking last year's volunteers to help again.</p> <p>Nick Tsioros motioned to have MLRA bring in two loads of sand for the volleyball tournament: Steve Titus 2nd, all in favour</p> <p>Ben di Franco has offered to spread the sand with his tractor and is looking for volunteers to rake the sand.</p> <p>Ben Di Franco volunteered to get a food donation from a contact.</p> <p>Geraldine has requested items for the silent auction.</p> <p>MLSC has offered a ski or wakeboard lesson.</p> <p>Joe Cancilla has requested a generic donations form for local businesses.</p> <p>MLSC will once again put on ski show. The location is to be determined on the day of dependent on water conditions.</p>	<p>Jenny Fairbrass</p> <p>Daren Boydell/ Gord Kobe</p> <p>Ben di Franco</p> <p>Ben di Franco</p> <p>Geraldine Debes</p> <p>Zack McGillivray</p> <p>Katharine and Chelsea</p> <p>Zack McGillivray</p>
Water Report	<p>Bob Bruce reported the water quality and clarity are normal and within good range. Clarity is 2.9 meters.</p> <p>Paul Kelly reported a larger amount of weeds than normal. Bob mentioned warmer temperatures and sun are promoting growth. Highest temperature recorded last year of the lake was 86 degrees. Water level was low. Wakes are damaging shore lines.</p> <p>Daren mentioned that water is regulated in but not out of the lake. Motioned that Daren go to the MNR re: water control exit on the lake: Zack 1st, Bob Bruce 2nd.</p> <p>Glen Debes asked that the beaver dams be left alone to keep the water in the lake. Daren has volunteered to ask Lantern Marina to not disturb the beaver dams.</p> <p>Water Report accepted</p>	<p>Bob Bruce</p> <p>Daren Boydell</p> <p>Daren Boydell</p>
9. Old Business		
Winterizing of Fire Pumps	<p>Gord Kobe drew up a map of pump locations, which was distributed by Brad Fairbrass.</p> <p>Pump houses are deteriorating. Mike Proctor motioned to buy new pump backflows: Nick Tsioros 1st, Bob Bruce 2nd. (pricing to be okayed before purchase)</p>	<p>Brad Fairbrass and Ralf Buschke</p>

Update on Black Crappie	<p>Gord Kobe reported that due to the invasive nature of Black Crappie, the MNR have decided not to introduce them to Morrison Lake.</p> <p>Glen Debes and Gord Kobe reported Muskie population declining, pike population high. Bass are also prevalent on the lake.</p>	Gord Kobe
Morrison Lake Ski Club	Dustin Titus discussed the ski ramp. It is insured for \$5 000 000 liability through the Ontario Waterski and Wakeboard Association. The purpose of the ramp is for ski and wakeboard lessons. The ski club is not in any way associated with MLRA. Navigation Canada and MNR discussed the location, and the ramp is in 100% compliance.	Dustin Titus
Other	Grant Viebrock asked about the MLRA Constitution. Ralf Buschke is going to enquire if anyone knows where it is. If it cannot be found, another one will be drawn up and voted into effect at a later date.	Ralf
10. New Business		
Bell Tower Light	<p>The issue of the Bell Light Tower was brought to attention</p> <p>Several people verbalized their disappointment with the sight of the tower as well as the bright flashing light that it gives off at night.</p> <p>Glen Debes explained that the tower is built on private property and went up because there was no opposition at the time of the surveys (during the winter when most cottagers are absent from the lake).</p> <p>He then explained how the light on the tower was originally red which was a lot more distracting and also dangerous (at night they could easily be mistaken for car/snowmobile tail lights)</p> <p>Geraldine stated that the tower would not be taken down, the best we can do is resolve the issue of the light</p> <p>Paul Kelly explained that the Town of Gravenhurst has recently passed a "clear night" (?) bill which prohibits things like light towers etc. Will work to get rid of the light by using this new bill</p>	Gord Kobe
Trespassing	Owners of vacant land have stated that trespassers will be prosecuted and no fires are allowed on privately owned land. The discussion was mainly a reminder that the back channel now belongs a family on the lake and having fires on the property is highly dangerous and is considered trespassing. Fires that were not properly extinguished last year caused a huge fire. There are signs on the property stating this.	Gord Kobe
Interest in General Lake Activities	Question was raised if anyone would be interested in arranging other types of lake activities this summer. There was general interest but nothing was finalized. Paul Kelly stated that this idea is encouraged on the newsletter.	

Other	Donna Gordon asked about bubblers on the lake. Carcone's and Smirlie's each have bubblers. They are interfering with enjoyment of lake activities in the winter, as ice does not properly form. Laws state that there must be a yellow flashing light and sign where a bubbler exists. Donna Gordon questioned MLRA's liability with bubblers and Paul Kelly stated that it is the landowners responsibility and they can be charged with criminal negligence if injury or death occurs because of the bubbler.	Gord Kobe and Paul Kelly
11. Meeting Adjourn	2:37pm: Brad Bolton 1st, Zack 2nd, all in favour	

**The next meeting will be Sunday, September 1, 2013 at 1:00pm
at North Morrison Lake Road Landing.**