



WELCOME SUMMER

To say “what a year” certainly seems like an understatement. With active COVID cases diminishing and vaccination rates increasing, we hope we can look forward to “new normal” for summer 2021. As you read through our newsletter, you’ll note that we continue to take a cautious approach to our events, but hope that easing restrictions will allow us many of our traditional activities as the summer progresses. We hope you’ll join us on Canada Day weekend - Saturday, July 3 - for a boat parade to kick off the summer – we’ll have some TMLB flags available for sale see the details of the event on page 3, and flag prices on our membership form.

The ongoing discussion on the proposed Shoreline Preservation Bylaw certainly became overly-heated in the community this year. We note that the current status rests with a consulting firm retained by the County to engage with stakeholders before making recommendations on a final draft. Please remember that the Association has not taken an official position on the proposed bylaw, and will not until your voice and vote is counted. We encourage you to be as informed as possible on this important subject and we will continue to provide as much resource information as possible. The Association’s Facebook page is one such resource for shared information and comment. We welcome healthy and vigorous debate, but were sometimes discouraged to see too many caustic comments too often; we can and should still be courteous in disagreement.

With many riding out the pandemic at permanent and seasonal residences in Haliburton County throughout the past year, there has perhaps never been so much activity on the water so early. With lots more boats and other recreational craft on the water, we’re also reminded of the impact boat wakes can have on the shoreline. There’s great information from FOCA on page 4 of the newsletter. Let’s also please consider how much sound carries from our boat or our dock.

We know that Swimmer’s Itch has been a topic of concern for many, and we are pleased to be able to share a great article from Boshkung Lake Steward Joanna Kerr on the subject.

We thank you for your continued support of the Association throughout the past year, and we were pleased that so many renewed their membership in spite of the pandemic. We hope we have made it easy for you to renew your membership this year, either through the form included in this newsletter, or online at www.tmlb.ca.

Finally, your current volunteer Association Executive wants to remind you that this is an election year. If you have interest in joining the Association’s executive, we’d love to hear from you and are happy to answer any questions!

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Our Continuing Objectives and Focus:

- grow membership with a target of 80% enrolment;
- re-capitalize the balance sheet back to strong financial position;
- continue to run existing lake social events as well as add new events that enhance our community – when and as public health best practices dictate;
- further educate and empower members on how to be environmentally aware;
- expand a membership reward program; and
- have a robust data sheet to manage membership and property numbers

Did you pay your 2020 membership, but still have not received your \$10 gift certificate to support a local restaurant? You can pick them up at our AGM!

TMLB Mandate

Our mandate is to protect the interests of the property owners regarding environmental issues, identify safety issues, discuss issues in the community and to provide a collective voice, provide social opportunities and communicate to members.

Your association works hard to ensure the sustainability and protection of your properties, property values and the quality of life on and within the lakes.

Membership

Still only \$25 per property – a great value to contribute toward a healthy lake association.

Your paid membership provides you with a TMLB membership card – present it for special offers at various businesses in our lake community! See details in this newsletter! See our Member benefits section for details of special benefits for 2021!



Road Captains

Thanks to the commitment of volunteers, we have a team of 15 dedicated Road Captains to canvas our lake for new members and reach out to existing members. The Road Captains are your Lake Association ambassadors, able to answer your questions and pass on any comments or concerns to the Executive, as well as update members on the tangible and intangible values of membership. This year they will continue to be available virtually and will be reaching out to you via email. For more information about how you can get involved, please contact Carole at: bill.peeling@sympatico.ca 705-489-1154



2021 – PHOTO CONTEST

Back for Year 2, we look forward to celebrating your best cottage life moments in photos! The official contest will take place in August, but you can start capturing those moments now!

Once again, we will have categories of *Fun On the Water*, *Shoreline Views*, as well as Members' Favourite. And this year we will add a new category for photo submission: *Best vintage photo* (this one doesn't have to be yours, but something you can share of the history of our lake communities).

Watch for more details by the August long weekend!

TMLB 2021 EVENTS:

We will continue to assess the feasibility of our traditional summer events as the summer unfolds.

Welcome Summer Canada Day Weekend Although we know it has been a difficult time for most these past 18 months, we are happy to be seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We will be hosting our first event in over a year. What is the event you say? It is our Canada Day Weekend Boat Parade - July 3 at 2:00pm. Socially distance in your boat, share some laughs and waive your Canada or TMLB flag proud as we cruise Twelve Mile and Little Boshkung. We will be meeting on the water in front of 1012 Minstrel Court (big dock, Water Trampoline, Jungle Jim and Canadian rock music blasting from the dock starting at 1:30pm – East side of the lake, in the bay north of Red Umbrella's bay). No need to RSVP, just show up and follow the party pontoon boat at 2pm. Hope to see you all there!

Summer Ice Cream Flotilla and Regatta: We will be watching the directives from public health and hope to bring both to you at some point over the summer – stay tuned!!

Road Cleanup: We will assess our ability to gather in September to conduct our annual Road Cleanup - as always, the more volunteers, the less time it takes – please consider giving us an hour of your time for this worthy endeavour!

Golf Tournament: We hope to have a tournament in September, after Labour Day. Date will be determined in early August. Please call Bill Peeling (705 489 1154) or Larry Tompkins (705 489 2266) if interested in playing.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the pandemic, we missed having our AGM in 2020. As we previously advised, our 2019 Financials and AGM information were posted on the members' site on the website for your reference. We will pass both the 2019 and 2020 Financials at our next AGM. We are preparing a date for September, and we hope to be in person/outdoors at Red Umbrella.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Publications:

“The Lake Health Report” (published 2019) - A complimentary copy (value \$10.00) was previously made available to all members. If you did not receive your copy, or are a new member – contact us, and we will forward you this great resource!

Local Merchant Discounts:

Minden Dairy Queen - Buy 1 DQ Blizzard, receive a Mini Blizzard for free. Limit 1 Mini Blizzard per card per visit.

JC Powersports - Receive 10% off labour 705-489-1833

Delancey Sports, Haliburton – Receive 5% off your purchase. Some restrictions apply.

Use code **TMLB2021** for in-store or online purchases. 705-455-9938 www.delanceysports.com



Help U-Links learn more about the lakes of Haliburton!

This summer U-Links is offering training to locals, cottagers, and post-secondary students who would like to participate in our benthic biomonitoring program. This training program will take place over the course of two modules: an online module and an in-person module. Participants will learn more about the small, spineless (and arguably charismatic) organisms that we use to help determine the health of lakes throughout the Haliburton region. The outcomes of this training will provide those in attendance with the skills and knowledge to assist Woodlands & Waterways EcoWatch in sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates within the Haliburton region. Find out more at the [Woodlands & Waterways EcoWatch](#) website and register today!

LAKE HEALTH INITIATIVES FOR 2021 – LAKE STEWARD REPORT

COVID may have kept us in various stages of lockdown, and social-distant, this past year, but there were many initiatives on the lake health front:

Minden Hills Septic Re-Inspection Program - The Township of Minden Hills has implemented a mandatory Septic Re-Inspection Program for its residents. WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) is administrating the Septic Re-Inspection Program on behalf of the Township and will be starting inspections in 2021. The Septic Re-Inspection Program is a mandatory program that has been initiated by the Township to help preserve and protect surface water and groundwater quality.

If you did not have an opportunity to attend one of the information sessions on the program, you can access that information here:

[MH Septic Re-Inspection Zone Map](#)

[June 3, 2021 Information Session Slide Deck](#)

Please note that not all systems will be inspected in 2021; you will have received notification from WSP Canada by mail indicating if you are to be inspected in 2021.

For further information on the program, contact WSP Canada Inc. at 289-984-0448 or mh.info@wsp.com.

Water Levels – The following is the report from *Trent-Severn Waterway - Water Level Management Update – Tuesday, June 15, 2021*. Parks Canada's water management team continues to actively monitor water levels, flows, and weather forecasts across the Trent-Severn Waterway. These factors are used to determine dam operations on a daily basis for the Trent-Severn Waterway.

Parks Canada maintains the Ontario Waterways Water Management InfoNet on the Trent-Severn Waterway website at www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet

The InfoNet contains background information on water management practices, water management updates, frequently asked questions about water management, various reports on water management, and the most recent water levels of lakes along both the Rideau Canal and the Trent-Severn Waterway. The information comes from hydrometric gauges located at key points along both waterways and is vetted by trained and experienced Parks Canada water management staff.

Outlook: The spring of 2021 has presented a unique set of challenges for the water management program of the Waterway. The early melt and exceedingly dry conditions resulted in the minimal flows experienced since early April until present across the system and the low levels in all flow-through lakes. The dry conditions resulted in additional strain on some of the Haliburton Reservoirs more than others. Every effort is made to ensure that water management decisions are carefully considered, acknowledging Parks Canada's responsibility to balance the needs of all users in the system.

The Trent Severn Water Management team is active on the daily basis, and the changing conditions will be closely monitored. Any watershed condition updates will be released by your Conservation Authority or local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources district.

Haliburton and Northern Areas: Most lakes are below long-term average water levels. The Gull River reservoirs are 85% full. Burnt River reservoirs are 90% full. The Central Reservoirs are 91% full. The drawdown has commenced and the rate of drop will be largely dependent on the rainfall received. The most recent water level forecast can be found here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/rabatement-drawdown-forecast>. A reminder that you can always check this information out at any time through the following link: [Parks Canada - Parks Canada Water Levels \(pc.gc.ca\)](http://Parks Canada - Parks Canada Water Levels (pc.gc.ca))

Shoreline Preservation – As mentioned previously, the proposed Shoreline Preservation Bylaw has produced significant engagement and opinion by many throughout Haliburton County. As part of our continued goal to provide you with resources and information with which to make informed decisions, please see the following: [Planning for our Shorelands \(watersheds.ca\)](http://Planning for our Shorelands (watersheds.ca))

Did you Know? Causing large boat wakes can be damaging to shorelines, and moored property such as docks and boats. There can also be impacts for shoreline nesting birds, such as loons. FOCA has great information here: [Watch Your Wake | FOCA](#)

Please look behind your boat and be aware of the impact it creates when cruising near property and shorelines.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - You may have noticed some yellow buoy markers on Twelve Mile earlier in June. This was part of the Ministry's broadscale fish monitoring program, which this year included Twelve Mile Lake. This is the first monitoring on Twelve Mile since 2015. We have posted additional information on the website, and fish netting results for individual lakes will be summarized as lake bulletins/available at FISHONLINE (www.Ontario.ca/page/fishing). We hope to be able to report more details at our AGM.

In recent years, it seems that there have been more concerns raised about “swimmer’s itch”. For some, this rash has been making Boshkung visits in the summer a lot less fun. But what is it? Do the ducks cause it? The snails? Is it getting worse? Is there something we can do? These are many of the questions that have come up at meetings and through our lake’s communication channels. Here’s a round-up of some useful research so that we can all better understand how best to handle it.

First - what is it? According to the Centre for Disease Control, swimmer’s itch, also known as cercarial dermatitis, appears as a rash “caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic parasites that infect some birds and mammals. These parasites are released from infected snails into fresh and salt water (such as lakes, ponds, and oceans). While the parasite’s preferred host is the specific bird or mammal, if the parasite comes into contact with a swimmer, it burrows into the skin causing an allergic reaction and rash. Swimmer’s itch is found throughout the world and is more frequent during summer months”. Unfortunately for all of us it is naked to the eye.

How do we get it here? The rash-causing parasite ends up in our lake through a rather nasty route. The adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, and certain mammals such as muskrats and raccoons. The parasites produce eggs that are introduced into the water from the feces of infected birds or mammals. At Boshkung Lake, it is likely via infected ducks.

If the eggs get into the water, the eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming microscopic larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail. If the larvae find one of these snails, they infect the snail, multiply and undergo further development. Infected snails release a different type of microscopic larvae into the water. This larval form then swims about searching for a suitable host (ie. a duck) to continue the lifecycle. Although humans are not suitable hosts, the microscopic larvae burrow into the swimmer’s skin, and may cause an allergic reaction and rash. Because these larvae cannot develop inside a human, they soon die.

In other words, the parasite works its way through duck or gull poop to snails to become free-swimming invisible larvae that like to burrow into human skin. The larvae are more common in shallow water. That’s why children are more at risk: they are wading in the infested water and less likely to dry off when getting out.

Anyone who has had it, knows it isn’t fun. Within minutes or days after swimming in larvae-filled water you might have felt burning, tingling or very itchy skin. That can develop into small reddish pimples that can develop into small blisters. If you keep going back into those waters and continue getting contaminated, the more intense and immediate the symptoms can become. That said, it is not contagious. Most google searches of swimmer’s itch don’t suggest you need to see a health provider. One lake resident swears by the over the counter product *Polysporin Itch Relief*. “It takes about 15 minutes to work” he says, “but it always works!” Other recommendations are corticosteroid cream, soaks in Epsom salts, baking soda or oatmeal baths, or the application of cool compresses.

Once an outbreak of swimmer’s itch has occurred in water, will the water always be unsafe? The larvae only survive 24 hours once they are released from the snail. If the water is moving that can move the larvae on. But because of the snail and duck interrelationship, the lifecycle continues, but not always in the same spot.

Is there any way we can reduce the risk of swimmer’s itch? You can avoid swimming or wading in the areas that it is known to be a problem - especially where the snails are commonly found. Do not attract the birds by feeding them. It is also recommended to towel dry or shower after leaving the water.

Is there more of it now? Despite the fact that we have an invasive snail in our lake (the banded mystery snail from the Southern United States), swimmer’s itch is found in many different snails, even those native to this part of Ontario. In fact, the parasite was discovered 100 years ago.

According to a big study in 2018 (Gordy, Cobb and Hanington “Swimmer’s Itch in Canada a look at the past and a survey of the present to plan for the future” *Environmental Health* volume 17, Article number: 73), it is predicted that warmer temperatures could increase the amount of swimmer’s itch through fast production of the larvae. The authors also note that lake eutrophication (increased nutrients of nitrogen and phosphorous – think fertilizers and leaky septic) can lead to more nutrients for the snails, increasing snail populations and therefore more swimmer’s itch parasites.

Is there any way to get rid of it? This leads us to an obvious question: should we try to get rid of the snails in Boshkung Lake? According to the big study cited above, that would be ineffective because “considering that only one snail infected with a schistosome [parasite] is necessary to cause swimmer’s itch, the concept of control or management of the issue is an arduous task. Past efforts to kill off the snail population, or even treat the birds with anthelmintics [anti-parasite drugs] have been costly, labor-intensive, and unsuccessful in the long-term”.

So in the end, our best remedies are good septic health and avoiding fertilizers on lawns or gardens where it could get into the lake. Finally, we can ensure none of us (or our guests) are feeding the ducks. As one lake resident says, ducks don’t like free-running barking dogs – so put Snoopy to use! Happy swimming.

Newsletter note: please also refer to the information on the Peterborough Health Unit website: [Peterborough Public Health](#)

TWELVE MILE LITTLE BOSHKUNG LAKE ASSOCIATION • ELECTED EXECUTIVE 2019-2021

| Position | Name | Phone | Email |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| President | Jennifer Graham | 416-441-3142 C 705-489-3275 | mercury725@hotmail.com |
| | Stuart Smith | 416-682-6551 416-970-7638 (cell) | stu.smith@scotiawealth.com |
| Road Captains | Carole Peeling | 705-489-1154 | bill.peeling@sympatico.ca |
| Treasurer | Jonathan Ginou | 416-996-7448 C 705-489-4443 | jginou@artprinting.com |
| Membership | Lorraine Gilmour | 905-472-6782 C 705-489-3848 | gilmourbl@rogers.com |
| Secretary/ Communications | Lisa Tompkins | 705-489-2266 705-457-0532 (cell) | lisa.tompkins@bell.net |
| CHA rep/Lake Steward | Larry Tompkins | 705-489-2266 | thetompkins@sympatico.ca |
| CEWF | James Wilson | | jameswilson_9@sympatico.ca |

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The association works diligently to provide you with a variety of information sources:

Facebook - Like us on Facebook!

Website - Visit our recently updated and redesigned website www.tmlb.ca as a resource for information on many important lake-living issues facing us on Twelve Mile/Little Boshkung Lakes, and throughout Haliburton County. Remember to visit the members' only section, where you will find previous AGM documents, copies of newsletters, and other important information for members. This section requires a password - and the password for 2021 is **MEMBER21**.

Thanks again to all those who participated in our inaugural photo contest last year; we hope to have more great photos submitted this year! See our section on the photo contest We are still wanting to create a section showcasing our lake histories – and we need your help! Send us stories, photos of your cottage in days past – anything you'd like to share about our collective community – to tmlbinfo@gmail.com

CHA - TMLB is a member of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association (CHA). CHA is a member-driven group of over 50 property owners' associations, representing more than 100 waterbodies and 12,500 waterfront properties from across the geographical limits of Haliburton County. Visit www.cohpoa.ca for information on the organization and its many activities (or link to it through our website); you'll find it an excellent resource. We'll feature one of the excellent resource videos at our upcoming AGM.

FOCA - The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) is a resource for cottagers, and our lake association. Visit their website www.foca.on.ca for great information.

CEWF - The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow seeks the implementation of an equitable water management policy for the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) among all stakeholders of the TSW system. Visit their website for lake level information www.cewf.ca

TWELVE MILE LITTLE BOSHKUNG LAKES ASSOCIATION



2021 Membership Renewal and Update

It is time to renew your membership. We hope you will all support your lake association. The dues for 2021 are the same as they have been for many years. Please forward your **\$25.00**, payable to **Twelve Mile Little Boshkung Lake Owners' Association (or TMLB)**.

To pay for multiple years please add \$25.00 per year. Please make note of any contact updates on this form to keep the database correct.

Information Update

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Full Name(s): | | Paid 2021: | |
| | | Paid 2022: | |
| | | Paid 2023: | |
| Cottage Address | | Paid 2024: | |
| Address: | | Paid 2025: | |
| Cottage Phone: | | Paid 2026: | |
| | | Paid 2027: | |
| Email Address: | | Paid 2028: | |
| | | | |
| Cell phone | | | |
| Home phone | | | |
| | | | |

Membership Renewal

*We are pleased to offer an Interac e-Transfer payment option.

Simply email your payment to tmlbmembership@gmail.com

No need for a password, just include your cottage # and street name in the message box.

If you would like to pay for multiple years, please add \$25.00 per year, and indicate paid years above

Have a safe and healthy 2021 season

Enclosed is my cheque payable to TMLB covering 2021 membership dues

\$

Office Use: Membership Number

Remit To: **Lorraine Gilmour - Membership Director**
 Twelve Mile Little Boshkung Lake Owners' Association
 197 Ramona Blvd
 Markham ON L3P 2L1

Flag order

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 12" x 18" Boat Flag \$12 | Quantity _____ | Total \$ _____ |
| 18" x 36" Flag Pole Flag \$32 | Quantity _____ | Total \$ _____ |
| 27" x 54" Large Flag Pole Flag \$60 | Quantity _____ | Total \$ _____ |