

THE RILEY LAKE REPORTER

WINTER, 2018.

***RILEY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION***



Visit our website: www.rlpoa.ca

INTRODUCTION:

Going forward a newsletter will be generated 3-4 times a year (Jan/May/August/Oct) and will be to pass along useful information about the lake, local events in the area and on the lake, nature observations, helpful hints, and any issues that would hopefully be found of interest to our members.

Suggestions and pictures for subject matter are always welcome as are comments. Please email Tim Stuart at: rileymembership@gmail.com

BOATING SAFETY & THE O.P.P. :

As many of you know the OPP have a mandate to attend Riley Lake a number of times during the summer to check on boating safety on the lake. While they are just doing their job to keep us all safe, it seems that a little latitude or a warning at times would be appropriate and helpful. Remember: if you are out in ANY kind of watercraft without the required safety equipment you can be fined hundreds of dollars. Even if you don't boat at night, you must have a working flashlight and we've learned that having a plastic whistle attached to every lifejacket by a short cord is a way to score points with 'the Law'. Our Spring Edition(May2018) will go over the list of requirements. In the meantime stories of tickets issued by the OPP would be appreciated so we can help our members learn what infractions lead to tickets.

REGATTA 2018

We have a new Regatta director for August long weekend. Email me if you want more info.

DO YOUR RESEARCH ON GRAVENHURST BUILDING PERMITS:

The Gravenhurst Building Department is charged with protecting all owners with more and more regulations. Make sure that your contractor gets a permit for you if it is his responsibility to do so. Rules change continually. In recent years only one bunkie was allowed per property. Virtually everything including docks requires a permit. For example, the fees for a complete new septic system were \$450.00 in 2017. Whatever your project, always check with the Town first to keep yourself out of hot (or septic?) water. Website: www.gravenhurst.ca Phone: (705) 687-3412.

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REAL ESTATE OVERVIEW:

A current 2017 online review on Riley Lake sales by Muskoka Real Estate Services research department indicates that cottages will sell in the range of \$225K to \$610K with the average in the range of \$380K. Less than 10% of the owners are year round residents. This information comes from this website: Muskokarealestateservices.com
For further information contact a local realtor or this website: realtor.ca

WATER QUALITY UPDATE:

We don't have a current report for you at this time, but Rudy Boonstra and his team continue to collect samples for laboratory review each year. One of the true 'wonders' of Riley Lake is the enormous amount of clean water we receive from the watershed north of the lake which is 42 square kilometers in size. There are a number of creeks on the north side of the lake that add fresh clean water to the lake all year, but the largest one is at the eastern end. Green's Creek which deserves to be called a 'river' adds a huge volume of water from the wilderness to the north. Riley Lake also has springs under the lake that add water. Since the inflow of water passes through many marshes and wetlands it takes on a slight brown tinge. Cottage Life magazine refers to lakes with this coloured water as 'tea lakes' and Lake Muskoka has the same coloured water as well.

RILEY LAKE...the FACTS and nothing but the facts....

Surface area: 155 hectares (388 acres). Ten percent of the lake is Crown Land.

Elevation: 247 metres (810 feet) above sea level.

Length of lake: 3.9 km, Width: 2.7 km.

Perimeter of lake: 22 km.

Depth: Maximum: 15.2 metres Average Depth: 5.4 metres

Island shoreline: 2 km.

Fish information: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye, sunfish
Fisheries Mgmt.: Walleye stocked in 1939, Smallmouth bass in 1961.

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS:

2017 witnessed the usual sightings of bears and deer. Wild Turkeys are frequently seen in the fields near Muskoka #6 and Frank Cooper Trail, and Sandhill Cranes were also in this same area. Quail and partridge are sometimes spotted along the dirt roads.

The numbers of chipmunks and squirrels rise and fall over the years. Red squirrels are around but they are a favourite food of foxes so there are not as many as in some parts of Muskoka. Hummingbirds respond to feeders, and a large number reside at the lake all summer.

PUBLIC DOCK CLEANUP – SPRING 2018

Can you help in June with cutting grass and removing old trailers and junk? Email me if you can help. Weekend to be decided based on numbers available.

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2017: A BUGGY YEAR!!

Due to the very cool Spring weather, the timing of blackflies coincided with mosquitoes in mid-June. Normally blackflies are pretty much over by mid-May as the dragonflies hatch and eat them. Some research will be done into the subject of bat boxes. Building up the population of bats around the lake would make a lot of sense as each bat eats a huge amount of flying insects especially mosquitoes. Information that some of you have on this subject would be welcome.

SECURITY CONCERNS:

Do you have a security system and/or outside cameras? Perhaps your neighbours are your security system? If so, make a special effort to get to know your neighbours, and if there are unknown vehicles or strangers at your neighbour's property, please ask them why they are there. In short this is the cottage equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch. While not to alarm anyone, there have been break-ins and a few fires in the past five years, so being vigilant will help keep our community safe.

DEALING WITH EXCESS JUNK & HAZARDOUS WASTE:

While Gravenhurst has a 'transfer station', it is located near the Luigi Road off Hwy. #11 between Washago and Gravenhurst. So likely the closest destination for us is the Rosewarne Transfer Station at 1062 Rosewarne Drive near Bracebridge. Exit Hwy. #11 at the Taylor Road exit, drive east 2 streets to Rosewarne and drive north, following the signs. Your vehicle is weighed in and out and there is a fee for most items.

Google: District of Muskoka Waste Management for times or call: (705) 645-3782

Let's try to stop the unsightly dumping of items at our Public Dock facility.

F.O.C.A. SEMINAR

Mary Moore and Pam Fell attended the important annual Fall Seminar of the Federation of Cottagers' Associations of which we are a member. They learned a great deal which will be of help to our Association.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

2018 FEES are now due. Please mail a cheque in for \$35.00. to P.O. Box 1222, Gravenhurst, ON, P1P1V4 Please make cheques payable to: RLPOA. We are not yet able to accept fees by e-transfer.

REFERENCES & INTERESTING WEBSITES

Area events (all seasons): www.discovermuskoka.ca

www.gravenhurst.ca

- www.sawdustcitybeer.com www.realtor.ca
- Satellite views of Riley Lake: <https://mapcarta.com/24590372/Photos->
- Summer videos of parts of Riley Lake: <https://ecottagefilms.com/lake/riley-lake>