



BLA NEWSLETTER



Brandy Lake Association

Spring / Summer 2008



Damaged Beaver Baffle

Presidents Report Bill Allen

precipitation -- now of the liquid kind -- after droughts in '05 and '07 this season might be shaping up to be a wet one -- but who knows. That moisture certainly has made it a banner year for the bugs, and a nuisance for us. Come on dragonflies -- go get 'em.

The extra-high water this spring has caused problems for some of us, and the Township has had to delay putting in the dock at the launching ramp in part because of it. As of mid-June, the water level is abnormally high and has actually risen about six inches in the last few weeks, partly because of the rains, and partly because one of the two pipes at the beaver baffle has become dislodged, and is not functioning. A work party is planned to repair this.

At times of high water it is important for boaters to be especially aware of the potential for damage resulting from their wakes. In addition to the obvious threat to docks and shoreline installations, the more subtle one is to the health of the lake itself -- parts of the shoreline that are not normally exposed to erosion now are vulnerable, and any topsoil washed into the water contributes to the nutrient content that can lead to algae growth -- so those folks with powerful boats need to go easy at times like these, and stay as far from shore as feasible.

See page 2

Bill Writes:

Another winter is behind us, and for those who don't enjoy shoveling snow, good riddance.

It looks like the weather man is on a roll with

Nature Notes From Donna

Turkey Vulture



**Birds of
Brandy
Lake**

Last fall we discussed some of the birds that are frequently seen around Brandy Lake. In this

issue we will discuss the summer birds.

It has been noted that this year the number and species of birds seen here has declined. This could be due to a number of things. Weather may play a role, or disease such as West Nile Virus. Loss of nesting and breeding habitat in the winter and summer ranges may be a factor. Climate change or pollution could affect food

resources. Presently visitors have been scarce around the feeders. The reason for this is that many bird species are now sitting on their nest s, and once the young hatch they will be busy gathering natural food. Bugs, worms, and so on are their year round food and are needed by the young for proper nourishment. The adult birds will periodically visit the feeders at this time, and should make more visits to feeders after the young are fledged. See pg 2

In this issue:

Presidents report on the watershed, erosion, baffle and tide

Read about Donna's experience with wildlife in and around Brandy Lake

Gail gives some insight on the social party with dates and information

Points of interest:

●Presidents Report
Spring and Summer 08

●Nature Notes From
Donna Sale

●Message from Gail
Hammond



Brandy Lake Association

Message from Gail:

I would like to welcome everyone back to Muskoka. Summer seems to be a little slow starting this year, but as we all know we will have some good weather eventually. Port Carling has come alive again and the shopping and browsing in this quaint and friendly hamlet is always a pleasure for our visitors.

Our Brandy Lake Social will be held on Saturday, July 26 at the cottage of Lisa and Rob Saunders, who have graciously agreed to host the Social again this year. Everyone who attended last summer had a great time and we hope all our members will come and join in the festivities. An invitation for the social is enclosed in this mailing.

The Annual General Meeting of our Association will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the Port Carling Community Centre. We hope our members will endeavour to attend and put forth any concerns they may have about Brandy Lake. The agenda for this meeting is also enclosed in this mailing.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer. Gail Hammond

President Report cont

It's worth reminding everyone that our docks and access ramps should be designed with two or three feet of tidal rise and fall in mind. Yes, I said tide — not the twice daily rise and fall of ocean areas — our highs and lows are more like six months apart — but the result is the same. We need to design our docks with that in mind.

Our planned events for this summer include the Social, to be hosted again by Lisa and Rob Saunders [above and beyond the call of duty- thanks from us all] on July 26 and the AGM on August 23, again at the Community Center. More details on both appear elsewhere in this mailing.

Our water testing program is underway for 08-- thanks to Peter and Donna Sale for managing it, and Tony Mathia for the sampling, with back-up from Gary Staley and Doug Swant. Most of the navigation markers are in place— thanks to Gary Simmonds.

Please remember, these programs only exist because of volunteers; more assistance is always welcomed.

This is the final year of my term as your President, and it's been my honour to serve. Our by-laws were designed to ensure turnover in the Board, and that's a good thing. It brings in "fresh blood", new ideas, and an opportunity for all who are willing to serve the Association, and thereby our community.

Anyone who is interested in serving on future Boards is encouraged to so advise any of the current Board members, or their Neighbourhood rep.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer

Bill Allen



Were on the web
www.brandylake.com

Birds Of Muskoka

Donna Sale— Birds—from page 1

Note - send your pictures to admin@brandylake.com and we will open a "bird photo" page. We can do wild life as well.



Donna Writes:

The best time to see birds is early morning and dusk, when they are most active gathering food. A good field guide and binoculars will help to see and identify birds.

Only the more common birds that have been seen on Brandy Lake this season are listed. For more information Google the Muskoka Bird Board for recent sightings of birds and other animals. If you click on their "other nature websites" link, it will lead you to a wealth of nature websites.

Common birds at feeders: Purple Finch, Gold Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted nuthatch, Chickadee, Blue Jay, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Mourning Doves and Wild Turkeys under the feeder.

Common birds on or near water: Mallard Ducks, Canada Goose, Great Blue Heron, Double-Crested Cormorant, Kingfisher, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, and the occasional Loon.

Common birds along the trails, or in the air: Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, American Bittern, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Crow, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Redstart Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellow-throated Warbler, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-wing Hawk, Merlin, and American Kestrel. The Barred owl and the Short-eared Owl, which are night hunters, have been sighted in previous years, but have not been seen this year.

Thanks to Marnie McCall, our Brandy Lake birder for all the birding information.

Donna Sale

So—what happened to my 30' of shore?