



# Acton Island Association

April 2014

## Acton Island Association

P.O. Box # 271

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## A Note from the President

Spring has never felt so sweet as after this record winter for low temperatures and high snowbanks. Of course one of the benefits of being Canadian is to have and to truly appreciate the four seasons and next we have the glories of summer at the cottage to which to look forward.

With this year's record snows, the corresponding melt will also be extreme. Be sure to monitor the water level by contacting your friends, contractors and neighbours. Also, check the Ministry of Natural Resources websites for updates on the water level in the lakes. Last year, Acton Islanders found that sharing "Lost and Found" information via the AIA website and emails was very helpful. If something is missing or furniture, etc. has appeared on your shoreline, please email Nancy Kerr who will arrange to post the information on the website and e-mail the details to those members who have provided e-mail addresses.

Encourage your neighbours, old and new, to come to the Meet & Greet. It's a great party and a super way to meet new people and learn about happenings on the Lakes.

It's always great to see our fellow cottagers taking advantage of Muskoka's clean air by biking, jogging or walking the Acton Island roads or paddling on our beautiful lake. When out enjoying the sights and sounds please take a bag along and pick up anything that should be in the garbage and recycling bins (not on the side of the road or shoreline). Let's keep our island beautiful!

My best wishes for a safe and happy summer for all.

Hugh

**Annual Acton Island Meet & Greet**  
**Saturday, July 26, 2014 2:00pm to 4:00pm**  
**1064 Kemp Road**

The Annual Meet & Greet is combined with a short Annual General Meeting, and is a great opportunity to meet your fellow Acton Islanders. Our thanks go to George and Rayla Myhal who have graciously offered to host this year's event.

## News from the Board

For those doing any building this Spring, remember that the roads are on half load until May 31st.

### Spring Water Levels:

Monitor water levels via the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website below:

#### Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/EmergencyManagement/2ColumnSubPage/239496.html>

The Emergency Management section of the MNR website provides updated information on current flood conditions both provincial and local agencies. Local information about flooding comes from conservation authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). [Read current local messages](#). This link is also posted on the Muskoka Lakes Website

#### Muskoka Lakes Township Office

Phone: 705-765-3156

Web site: [www.muskokalakes.ca](http://www.muskokalakes.ca)

### Road News

The Township has confirmed that a resurfacing of both Acton Island Road and Innisfree is in the budget for this year. Timing isn't certain, but it is estimated to be in late July.

### Dark-Sky Awareness: Muskoka Created the World's First Permanent Dark Sky Preserve

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada has designated the Torrance Barrens as a Dark-Sky Preserve. We are so fortunate to have spectacular night sky-watching right at our doorstep!

<http://www.rasc.ca/content/torrance-barrens-dark-sky-preserve>

*Muskoka, Ontario* - Wander down to the new waterfront Wharf in Gravenhurst after dusk and you'll notice that street lights face down, not out or up. Both Gravenhurst and Huntsville have dark-sky-friendly street lighting, so the night sky, which is often washed out by city lights, dazzles with ancient constellations, shooting stars and the Milky Way. In 1999, the nearby Torrance Barrens Conservation Area was designated as the world's first permanent Dark Sky Reserve. The 4,700-acres of Crown land is bedrock and wetlands, with trees and bushes that are stunted in height. For star-gazers this means a spectacular 360 degree view of the night sky, unhampered by light pollution. Even an amateur's telescope can see the rings of Saturn. Late in the summer and in the early fall, it's possible the northern lights (aurora borealis) could put in an appearance.

<http://www.canadacool.com/COOLFACTS/ONTARIO/MuskokaNightSkys.html>

### Tax Assessment:

Contact the MPAC office in Bracebridge to make an appointment to discuss the assessed value of your property.

### History of Acton Island:

Rayla Myhal, an Acton Islander with a cottage on Kemp Road, is putting together a book about Acton Island - its history, stories, folk lore, pictures... Rayla would love to hear from Acton Islanders to have a chat and collect stories and photos that would be included in the book. It would be especially helpful for Rayla to hear from people who have been here for generations. If you and your family are interested in participating in Rayla Myhal's project, please contact her at [raylamyhal@gmail.com](mailto:raylamyhal@gmail.com).

## Acton Island Association Membership and Roster

The 2014-15 AIA Roster will be updated and printed this spring and distributed in June by mail to paid members and will also be available at the AGM and Meet & Greet on July 26, 2014. Please be sure to send your membership dues along with a confirmation or update of your Roster information as soon as possible, so we can finalize the information and print the Rosters. The AIA website and Roster are a great source of information, and the Annual Meet & Greet is a wonderful way to meet your fellow Acton Islanders!! Also, with the recent increase in postal rates, we are very much encouraging electronic communications so please help us by providing your e-mail addresses and keeping us informed of any changes.

## Summer Events



**Bala Summer Market**  
every Monday,  
end of June - Labour Day, 9-2pm



**705.762.5663**  
At the falls,  
Precambrian Shield parking lot



**Port Carling  
farmers' market**

Thursdays - Hanna Park  
June 27 - Aug 29 - Labour Day - 9am-2pm

An extensive listing of upcoming Summer Events is available on the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce website:

<http://www.muskokalakeschamber.ca/events/2>

### Annual Acton Island Association Meet & Greet

**Saturday, July 26, 2014**

**2:00pm to 4:00pm**

**1064 Kemp Road**

## **Acton Island Association Board of Directors:**

**President: Hugh Kerr**

1220-1 Acton Island Road  
705-762-0081, hugh.kerr@sunlife.com

**Immediate Past President: Malcolm Foulkes**

1054 Kemp Road  
705-762-3664, mj@rdsolutions.ca

**Membership Director: Nancy Kerr**

1220-2 Acton Island Road  
705-762-0081, nancykerr@rogers.com

**Secretary: Brian Atkinson**

1153 Acton Island Road  
705-762-5394, brianratkinson@sympatico.ca

**Treasurer: Stephen Randall**

1055-2 Kemp Road  
705-762-3228, acton@sympatico.ca

**Directors:**

**Larry Scott**, 1173 Innisfree Rd  
705-762-2548, lawrencejacksonscott@gmail.com

**Carl Millar**, 1085-2 Acton Island Road,  
705-762-4335, carletonmillar@hotmail.com

*We lost a friend and long-time director, Gord Richards, in October 2013. Gord was a founding member of the Acton Island Association and has been a driving force in promoting the Association and diligently maintaining its membership records. He will be sorely missed.*

The AIA Board is here to serve the needs of its members. If you have ideas or topics to discuss, please let us know.

### **Acton Island Association**

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