



Acton Island Association

May 4, 2015

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A Note from the President

With the recent municipal elections and the activity in Bala involving the hydro development, a number of questions have been asked about the role of the Association and in what issues it should become involved. Our by-laws state as follows: "The purpose of the Association is to preserve the quality of life on Acton Island and/or lands and water adjacent to or in close proximity to Acton Island." This statement of purpose is supplemented by four objectives which read:

- a. to maintain the WR-1 Residential status of Acton Island;
- b. to preserve and protect the natural environment of Acton Island and its surrounding waters including protection of natural shoreline;
- c. to assure orderly and appropriate development on Acton Island in order to preserve and enhance the residential and natural environment; and
- d. to plan for change and to handle emerging issues related to Acton Island quickly and effectively.

The by-laws indicate that our focus is to be on the island and its adjacent waters. We can also take an interest in matters that would affect the level of that water - a matter made more relevant by the flooding of recent years. That said, matters of public policy which affect the broader environment are best left to other Associations or interest groups which have the resources to tackle those topics. The AIA also avoids activities which could be perceived as making a political choice. We need to be able to deal with all of our elected representatives regardless of electoral outcomes.

The by-laws guide the Board in its activities and in the choices it is asked to make. I hope that they also provide some answers for Association members who want to get involved in local initiatives.

As always 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.

Let's keep our island and waters clean and beautiful! My best wishes for a safe and happy summer for all.

Hugh

Acton Island Association

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Bala, ON POC 1A0

Email: contact@ActonIsland.com

Web: www.ActonIsland.com

Annual Acton Island Meet & Greet
Saturday, July 25, 2015 2:00pm to 4:00pm
1047 Innisfree 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 **Larry and Vicky Rozak** who have graciously offered to host this year's event. We look forward to seeing you on July 25th. *Please bring appetizers for 6 and BYOB.*

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. Local information about flooding comes from conservation authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This link is also posted on the Muskoka Lakes Website.

Bala Falls Hydro Project:

The Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) has taken an official stand opposing the Bala Falls project. We suggest that AIA members review page 5 of the MLA Newsletter link below:

http://www.mla.on.ca/Storage/37/2642_ShoreLines_Winter_2015.pdf

We also encourage members to review the **Swift River Energy Limited website** which includes Project Updates at February 2015, including notes regarding a Bala Working Committee:

<http://www.balafalls.ca/project.html>

Safe Quiet Lakes Association (SQL)

The Safe Quiet Lakes Association (SQL) www.safequiet.ca has approached the AIA requesting our support. The goals of the SQL are:

“To make lakes in Muskoka and across Central Ontario:

1. Safe for everyone who wants to use the lake every day; safe for swimmers and all types of motorized and human-powered craft. (High-speed, oversized craft and excessive noise increase risk.)
2. Quiet enough so that everyone can enjoy nature’s sounds, speak at normal voice levels and not be startled or awakened by intrusive noises.
3. Sustainable environmentally, so that we can share this resource with future generations. Large wakes erode shorelines, loud noises disrupt wildlife, and emissions damage the environment.
4. A community in which all residents, businesses and visitors share the responsibility of keeping our lakes safe, quiet and sustainable, by talking to their neighbours and reinforcing safety and courtesy as part of our lakeland culture.”

Watch for SQL pamphlets and other material available at marinas and stores. The **Safe Boating Guide** is available on the Transport Canada website for the Office of Boating Safety:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-menu-1362.htm>

Road News

Our thanks go to Norma Luks who, in September 2014, received the following update from Public Works on the status of the Acton Island Road.

“Extensive ditching was done this summer (2014). A decision was made not to pulverize the road base since it was not in bad enough shape to do so. A layer of high float was applied on the existing surface. It was rougher than the normal surface but twice as thick. Slurry seal is scheduled to be applied in 2015. The road needs to sit for a year before slurry seal is applied.

The slurry seal will greatly improve the surface of the road. It will still be slightly more rough than a virgin surface but much thicker and therefore stronger.

My only caveat is that the budget for 2015 is not approved yet. But I think it will be done.”

History of Acton Island:

Rayla Myhal, whose cottage is on Kemp Road, is looking for input from Acton Islanders as she continues work on a book about Acton Island - its history, stories, folklore, photos... It would be especially helpful to hear from people who have been on Acton Island for generations, and Rayla would love to get together to have a chat and collect stories and photos that would be included in the book. If you and your family are interested in participating in Rayla's project, please contact her at raylamyhal@gmail.com.

Muskoka Lakes Township Office: Phone: 705-765-3156

Web site: www.muskokalakes.ca

Tax Assessment:

If you wish to discuss the assessed value of your property, contact the **MPAC** office in Bracebridge to make an appointment:

MPAC Phone: 705-645-8994

169 Pine Street East

Bracebridge, Ontario, P1L 1T5

Acton Island Association Membership and Roster

The AIA Roster was updated and printed last summer and distributed by mail and at the AGM/ Meet & Greet to paid members. The next issue of the AIA Roster will be printed in July 2016. When you return the Membership form to renew or initiate your membership (along with a cheque for the membership dues), please confirm or update your Roster information, so we can keep the Membership information up to date. The AIA website and the printed Roster are a great source of information! Thank you to all who have provided us with email addresses to and kept us informed of any contact information changes.

Summer Events



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 25, 2015

2:00pm to 4:00pm

1047 Innisfree Road

bring appetizers for 6 and BYOB

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

President: Hugh Kerr

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Larry Scott, 1173 Innisfree Rd
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Mike Lewis, 1538-8 Acton Island Road
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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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