



BALSAM LAKE ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY NEWS

Winter 2023 Edition



PHOTO CREDIT MIKE KITCHEN

WINTER WILDLIFE

For outdoor enthusiasts winter is a great time to strap on your snowshoes, hike the many trails around Balsam Lake, get some fresh air and see wildlife in their natural habitat. Snow makes it easier to spot tracks as wildlife go about their daily routines. So far this winter BLA members have reported spotting Coyotes, Black Bear, White Tailed Deer, Moose, Mink, Otters, Wild Turkeys, Porcupine and Ermine on their winter hikes.

As you're enjoying winter outdoors remember to keep wildlife wild. If you encounter wildlife on your walks, don't surprise them, make sure they know you're there, keep dogs under control, observe from a safe distance and don't feed wildlife and keep garbage contained. Habituated wildlife can become a nuisance.

FROM THE BLA EXECUTIVE

Happy New Year and welcome to the Winter 2023 edition of the Balsam Lake Association's quarterly news. We're excited about the year ahead as we celebrate all four seasons at the lake. This publication will provide updates on issues and activities relevant to Balsam Lake cottage owners and full time residents. With a mandate to improve the quality of life at the lake we come together as an executive 4 times a year representing the many associations around Balsam Lake. 2022 was a busy year for the BLA; participating in the Fresh Water Summit, partnering with Kawartha Conservation and Kawartha Lake Stewards Association on water monitoring programs and maintaining the BLA hazard markers. Many of those programs will carry on this year. Thanks to David Donais for his leadership of the BLA Executive over the last 2 years.

If you'd like to know more about BLA activities follow us on the web at balsamlakeassociation.ca or Face Book.

Barb Callander
President
Balsam Lake Association



PHOTO CREDIT MIKE SMITH

TO BUBBLE OR NOT TO BUBBLE

With the return of winter many have been taking advantage of colder weather to enjoy outdoor activities on the lake including; ice fishing, hockey, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and polar dipping.

At the same time more cottage owners are using or considering the use of bubblers to protect boat houses and docks.

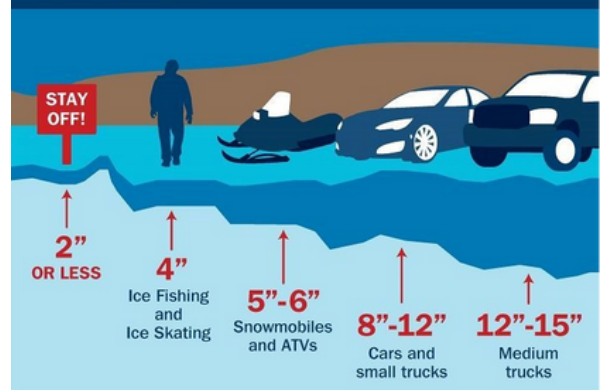
It's important to understand the impacts of bubblers to the environment as well as the safety and social issues associated with these devices. Bubblers typically use air hoses or motorized propellers to disrupt the formation of surface ice. This ice free zone creates a safety hazard for those enjoying the frozen lake and may have liability implications. When strobe lights or any lighting is added it impacts the enjoyment of other residents and is harmful to fish and other wildlife.

Why not bubblers? Bubblers disrupt the natural circulation of the water. In addition to preventing the formation of ice, an important seasonal condition for water bodies like Balsam, these aerators impact water quality by disturbing sediment which changes water clarity and importantly bubblers alter natural chemical processes in the water column and lake bed. All these changes add up to promoting plant growth, disturbing fish habitat and spawning, and elevating bacteria levels in the lake.



Ice Thickness Chart

Safe Ice Depths



Note: These are rough guidelines for clear ice only.

FOR THE HISTORY BUFFS

For those interested in the history of the area, the Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society recently hosted a Zoom presentation by Dr. Peter Ramsden (McMaster University) on How a Distillery, a Railway and a Horse Helped to Shape Ontario Archaeology. Here's the link and passcode if you'd like to watch Dr. Ramsden's talk.

[Video Conferencing](#), [Web Conferencing](#), [Webinars](#), [Screen Sharing](#)

Passcode: Z#\$NuG7e

CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES INPUT ON SHORT TERM RENTALS

The City of Kawartha Lakes is currently seeking public input on Short Term Rentals in the municipality. If you would like to have a voice take a minute to complete the survey. "Survey responses will be reviewed and combined with information gathered from complaint monitoring to create a draft regulatory by-law. A public meeting will be held in Spring 2023. Comments from this meeting, along with all other public input will be brought to Council in a report outlining options to regulate and license Short Term Rentals in Kawartha Lakes." The survey is open until Feb 15 (source COKL website)

[Short Term Rentals | Jump In Kawartha Lakes](#)

