



February 22, 2024

KOSH LAKE NEWS



Winter Madness - Oaklynn Bates and Lucas Bath up to their ears in mud. *Photo credit: Jordan Bennett*

LKRA AGM Support Needed

This year we are planning to hold our online AGM on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 pm. In the past FOCA has hosted our meeting but they are no longer able to provide this service. If you, or someone you know, is experienced at hosting AGMs on Zoom, Microsoft Teams or another platform, please submit a proposal including the fee to president@kasshabog.ca The platform used must be capable of recording votes and taking polls. Thanks!

Let's Make 2024 our Best Year Yet

Your LKRA Executive is busy at work thinking about

ways to keep our community and lake vibrant and safe this year. But, we need your help. We'd love to see more fun events over the summer but simply don't have the manpower to make them all happen. Is there a small event you think might be fun and easy for you and your friends or family to organize? Is there a workshop you'd like to organize? The LKRA would be happy to help market your event and even contribute some funds to help make it possible. Contact Jami Sampson at membership@kasshabog.ca with your idea and let's make it happen!



Environmental Oversight

We are looking for an individual who will be willing to join the LKRA Board of Directors and oversee environmental issues of concern to our lake. There will be a number of volunteers working with you to execute various programs. Your role is to oversee what's going on and report back on results. If you think you could fill this role please contact Jennifer Cummings at president@kasshabog.ca

If you would like to help out this summer in another way please [complete this survey](#) and let us know. We will then reach out and find a good fit for you.

Membership Matters

Please take time to renew your LKRA Membership now for 2024 and support the association that is working hard to protect the lake you love. It's the best \$25 you'll ever spend. And rumour has it there may be a contest for early registrants. [Join Today!](#)

Dam Fund Next Steps

The Dam Fund Evaluation Committee (Gary Kindree, Harry Major, Lori Bailey, Rob Milne) will be meeting February 28th and subsequently making a recommendation on next steps to the LKRA Executive. Watch for an update on the Dam Fund in the March E-News.

2024 Yearbook

Is there a subject you'd like us to cover in the 2024 Yearbook? Do you have a story you'd like to share? If so, please send your thoughts

to communications@kasshabog.ca before March 10, 2024.



Dangers During the Freeze

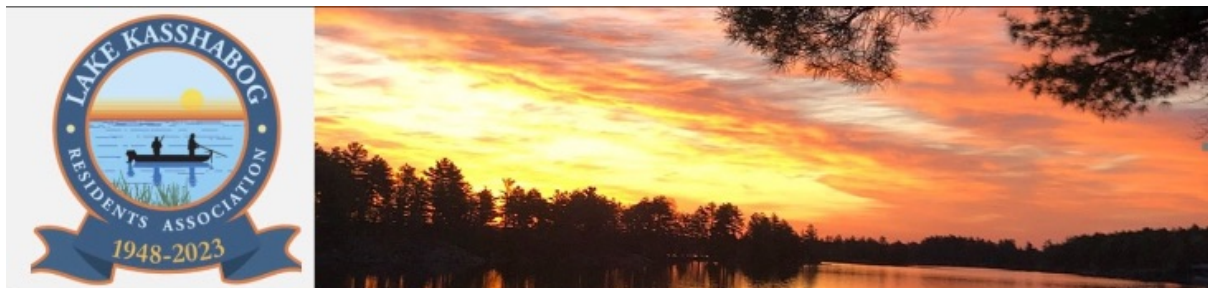
It's been a very unusual winter demanding extreme caution when considering travel on the lake. As mentioned before, narrow channels, such as the channel leading into the dam, can be extremely deceiving and hazardous. Don't take any risks this winter. Always take extra care to ensure the ice depth is sufficient to bear your weight.

Winter Ready?

Do you have all these items in your car when you leave your driveway during the winter? Snow scraper and shovel * Jumper cables * Emergency kit * Food and water * Winter clothing * Blanket * Cat Litter * Flashlight * Fully charged cell phone * Windshield washer liquid

HBM Tax Bill: Important Survey

This month you will be receiving your interim HBM tax bill. The HBM council recently voted to review the Ward System and are looking for your input. The results of this survey will impact our voice at council as major taxpayers. **Your Executive has taken a strong stand on this issue and prepared the outline below.** We are asking ALL residents to reply to the survey they receive in their tax mailing.



HBM - WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

History of Township

The Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen was formed in 1998 when the

Current Review

2022 Municipal Election

incorporation was formed in 1988 when the previously independent Townships of Methuen and Belmont joined with the Village of Havelock.

Since that time there have been 5 members of Municipal Council and 2 voting Wards.

Ward 1 -Township (Rural) Ward

- Ward 1 Councilor - Voted on by residents residing in the rural areas of the Township, being all areas not within the Village proper

Ward 2 - Village (Havelock) Ward

- Ward 2 Councilor - Voted on by residents residing in the Village of Havelock only

The **Mayor, Deputy Mayor** and **Councilor at Large** are voted for by **ALL** residents of the Township.

Ward 1 - 87% of eligible voters reside in the Rural Township Ward (6387)

Ward 2 - 12 % of Eligible Voters reside in the Village Ward (868)

**Each ward is responsible for the election of 20% of Town Council*

Town Council has expressed a desire to review the current electoral wards prior to the 2026 Municipal Election.

October 6, 2023 Council Meeting

- HBM Council voted to start the Public Consultation Process which included the sending of a Survey to all residents with the Interim Tax Bill in February 2024.

January 16 2024 Council Meeting

- HBM Council approved the final Resident Survey to be mailed out with the Interim Tax Bill in February

Resident Options

- 1. Leave the electoral ward system unchanged.**
- 2. Redraw the boundaries** of the two current wards to allow for an equal number of eligible voters in each ward.
- 3. Eliminate the ward system** and elect all Members of Council at-large whereby all eligible voters within the entire Township would be casting ballots for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and three Councillors.

LKRA Position

The LKRA Executive voted **STRONGLY** to support the elimination of the Ward System at its meeting of February 5, 2024.

In the Executive's opinion, this will allow for more balanced and equitable representation of our rural needs and unique perspectives as taxpayers, given our percentage of the Township's overall population.



HAVE YOUR SAY!!

Please ensure you return your survey to the Township to register your position on the Ward System Review!!



<https://www.kasshabog.ca/>

Grab a Book Enroute to the Lake

You are invited to enjoy a free community lending library this winter at 1289 County Road 40. Why not pick up a book on your way to the cottage? Lots of books for all ages.





Wildlife Wonders - Largemouth Bass

With winter outside and our beloved lake still frozen, not many of us are thinking about fish. But how do fish get through the winter? Let's look at largemouth bass, one of several species that call Kasshabog home. Bass are cold-blooded animals so their body temperatures are the same as the water in which they live. But when winter comes, the biggest challenge is not the freezing water but the amount of oxygen. In the summer, there is plenty of fresh, dissolved oxygen for fish to breathe. Not so in the winter. Frozen lakes lose oxygen from the bottom up, so it should be better for fish to move closer to the icy surface. However, the water is colder there than in deeper parts of the lake so the fish risk hypothermia. To combat this, largemouth bass reduce their breathing rate, activity level, metabolism, and other body functions. However, they also do not process much food, so their bodies rely on their fat reserves to stay alive. As a result, if the winter is too long, fish can die of starvation before the welcome spring arrives.

Kid's Corner - Winter Tree Activities

Keep your trees beautiful all year round!

<https://www.communityplaythings.co.uk/learning-library/articles/winter-ice-art>

Feed the birds with these super easy clothespin feeders!

<https://littlepinelearners.com/clothespin-bird-feeder-for-kids-to-make/>





Thanks for the Winter 2024 picture, Shane Bertolacci

Land Acknowledgement

As we celebrate the ever-changing beauty of Kasshabog Lake, we are reminded to respect and nurture our sacred relationship to this land as well as to its First Peoples, both past and present. We acknowledge that our Lake resides upon the traditional lands of the Mississauga Anishinaabe. We recognize and value the contributions of Indigenous peoples past and present. On their behalf, we commit to supporting the health and welfare of this land in all current and future initiatives.

Yours to Enjoy...Yours to Protect
Lake Kasshabog Residents Association

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