



NOTICE

Annual General Meeting

10AM

Saturday, July 16th

Location TBA

President's Message

Greetings on the behalf of your Board of Directors!

Let me begin by thanking Chris Brandt and Robin Ziebert for the editing and publishing of this year's newsletter, Caroline Bledsoe and Jeff Rice for getting it out by email, and all those who contributed to the articles included.

Your Board has been busy again this year addressing your concerns. We've made good progress as follows:

- Revision of the By-Laws and Constitution. The revised Constitution, which was passed out last year and posted on our Association's website, will

be voted on at this year's annual meeting.

- Meeting with Parks Ontario on the regulations and expectations applicable to our lake.

- Selection and installation of a welcome sign.

- Scheduling of a meeting with Ministry of Health regarding their plans for water sampling.

- The addition of a second Porta-John and the repair and replacement of Handicapped Parking signs.

- Collection of financial information regarding the assessment and taxation of lake properties.

- Request for records regarding expenditures and projects related to Lake Matinenda since its annex.

- Continued request to aid in the revision of the Dock Attendant's job description.
- Scheduling a meeting with the new Town Council.

More information will be provided at our Annual General Meeting on July 16th. The site for this meeting is as yet unknown, but will be posted on our website and at the landing as soon as possible.

As always, we welcome your input and look forward to seeing you there.

Stay healthy,

Ed Pilon

Your Board at Work

The Board continues to work with the Town to address items of concern to cottagers that require ongoing attention. Specific details, history and updates for each of the following may be found on our website:

www.matinenda.ca

- Dock attendants
- Docks, landing, sea wall
- Garbage dumpsters
- Recycling Participation



The welcome sign approved by the Board earlier this spring was installed in May and will greet everyone when they arrive at the lake this season!

The Nitty Gritty of Provincial Park Status

The Matinenda Provincial Park is 29,417 Hectares in size and spans 11 townships.



By Robin Ziebert

On Jan 26th, the Association's President Ed Pilon and Secretary Robin Ziebert met with Provincial Park representatives Tamara Flannigan and Vicki Bradfield.

The Association requested this meeting in hopes of more clearly understanding Matinenda's "park status" and how it affects the lake's residents.

Park representatives began by clarifying that the "landing," docks, seawall and parking lots come under the Town of Blind River's jurisdiction unless there are issues in these areas that negatively affect the overall lake environment.

The Matinenda Provincial Park is 29,417 Hectares in size and spans 11 townships. It was designated through Ontario's Living Legacy land Use Strategy as a "natural environment park" and is regulated under the Provincial Parks Act as of June 2003.

The 2003 *Matinenda: Interim Management Statement* is the policy document regarding Matinenda Provincial Park, and can be found on the Provincial Park Website. If a new management directive is developed in the future, it will be open for public review.

Key points from this document, applicable to the questions voiced at the 2010 Annual Meeting, are as follows:

- **The cutting of trees and landscaping** is allowed within an owner's private property, but is NOT on park property. (5.1.1)
- **Hunting** is permitted on park property, but ONLY with the owner's express permission is it permitted on private property. (5.1.2)
- Park lands have been withdrawn from mining activity and thus NO **mineral exploration or extraction** will be permitted. (5.1.3)

- The only official road accessing Lake Matinenda is **Highway 557**, which is maintained by the provincial, not municipal, government. (5.1.4)
- There are NO authorized **ATV trails** in Matinenda Provincial Park at this time. (5.1.4) Trails that can be proven to have existed prior to 2003 will be grandfathered, if they do not threaten the park; however NO NEW TRAILS will be permitted. The Park Service has maps of the existing trails and cutting or creating a trail that extends outside of your own private property lines is ILLEGAL. Violators will be prosecuted.
- **Camping** IS allowed on all park property and a camper may remain on a site for a maximum of 23 days. However, if issues with litter, destruction of resources or excessive sound are observed, a conservation officer and the Park Superintendent's office should be contacted immediately. Action will be taken.
- NO **sales of additional properties**, other than those already privately owned, will ever be made available.

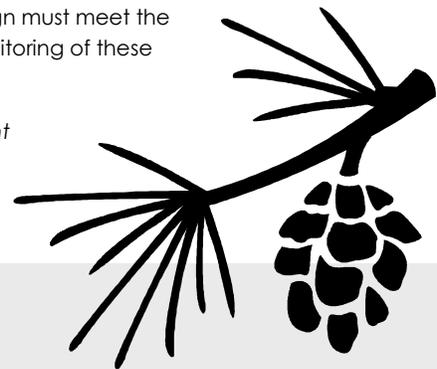
It was noted that during 2010, several Parks workers were observed photographing residential docks and/or shore line. When asked about these activities, the representatives responded that the purpose of these photographs was to create a visual log of the existing dock systems. They also apologized for not notifying the Association in advance and promised to do so in the future.

This photo log was being created in response to the Park Service's concerns regarding crib-style docks. Extensive research has shown that such docks are not good for the fish and water population. These and any non-floating docks, come under the park's jurisdiction as they rest upon the lake bottom. As a result, the replacement of existing, or construction of new crib-style docks is *prohibited*. Those planning on repairing an existing crib-style dock must first apply to the Park department for a permit. There is a hefty fine for not heeding these restrictions!

Cottagers should use only floating docks for replacement or new construction. Regulations regarding the length of docks and other specifications may be found on the Transportation Ministry website.

Finally, residents should be made aware that septic and waste water system design must meet the Municipal Affairs and Housing's Building Codes. The issuing of permits and the monitoring of these systems is done by the Algoma Health Department.

A more detailed summary of the 2003 Matinenda: Interim Management Statement and this meeting are available on the Association's website.



Helpful Resources

A Lake Matinenda Provincial Park fact sheet is available at www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/4000/10307885.pdf

The guidelines and regulations for docks may be found under Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Transportation at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/pub/dock-quais-on/06-eng.htm

Septic and waste water system design and regulations are available from Municipal Affairs and Housing, under Building Codes, at www.mah.gov.on.ca

Matinenda Fun Day 8/06

Please come to the Dock area on Saturday August 6th from 9AM to 1PM for Matinenda Fun Day, an event organized by the Special Projects Committee.

Money will be raised during the day for local charities and Cottage Association projects. In 2010, proceeds were used for donations to the Timber Museum and the Food Bank in Blind River. A large, portable canopy was also purchased for use at Association gatherings.

All Lake Matinenda folks are encouraged to attend and to donate items for the Bake Sale (pre-wrap baked items), Flea Market and Craft Corner. Participants are also welcome to sell their own crafts; we ask that a small percentage of proceeds be donated to the Special Projects Committee.

Items available for sale will include an array of homemade breads and pastries, copies of the Teacher's Bay History book, potholders printed with Matinenda scenes, birch bark and wood carving crafts, beer can mobiles, Matinenda wildlife information, plant lists from the Matinenda flora (also available online at the LMCA website), Matinenda Lake water quality data, and much more.

Any questions, contact Nancy Harz in McGreggor's Bay nah12@frontier.net.



So, What Else Is Cookin'?

The LMCA Special Projects Committee has been working on a New Edition of the Lake Matinenda Cookbook.

To help us in that effort, we would like to ask everyone to please bring your favorite recipes with you to the lake this season.

We are going to compile the cookbook during the summer, so lots of folks can contribute. Our goal is to get as many people as possible to contribute at least one great recipe!

Don't forget to deposit your recipes in the "Lake History" box in the Hospitality House at the landing.

See you all at the lake!

Nancy Harz
Chair, Special Projects Committee

You Should Be In the Movies... Or at Least Go to One!

By Robin Ziebert

There's exciting news for Matinenda Cottagers this summer; after many long years, Blind River has a movie theater again!

The Palace Theater II makes its new home in the Alain Bray Auditorium. The auditorium is housed within the French High School at 117 Colonization Road.

Alex Solomon, whose family ran the original Palace Theater, and his wife Debbie will be showing a new first-run cinema movie every week. Currently, the theater provides movies Friday through Sunday at 7PM, however there are plans for showings Tuesday through Friday in July and August.

Current and future movie listings may be found at their website pt2_blindriver@hotmail.ca or by calling (705) 356-1234.

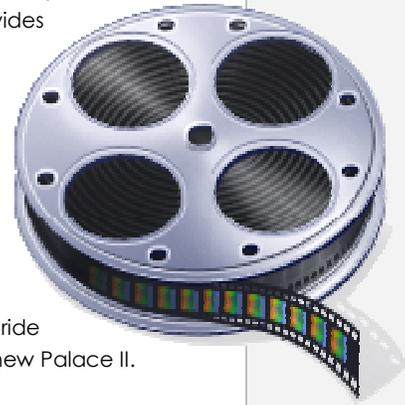
Tickets are \$8 for those 14 and older, and \$6 for children. There is also a full concession stand with all your favorite treats, including fresh popcorn. Currently, the theater is a "Cash Only" operation, so come prepared.

The idea of providing movies in the auditorium has been talked about for a number of years. A remodeling of the projection room and the total construction of the concession stand were just two of the obstacles that had to be overcome. The Solomons also had to find a source for 35 millimeter films and eventually settled on the same distributor that supplies the Reel2Reel Theater in Elliot Lake.

Although admittedly smaller than the multiplex cinemas many cottagers may be accustomed to, the single screen, 250-seat Palace II provides the warm, small town atmosphere we all treasure each summer.

So, if that rain just won't let up, or your family is simply looking for some shared entertainment, take a ride into town and try the new Palace II.

The Solomons are waiting for you!



Show Time 7PM

Open Friday through Sunday through the month of June, Tuesday through Friday in July in August

\$8 for those 14 and older, \$6 for children

CASH SALES ONLY!

The Town of Blind River's website address is www.blindriver.com.

Copies of the latest Town Council Minutes and Financial Reports can be found at this site.

Show Me the Money!

A Brief Summary of 2008 Municipal Tax Revenue and Expenditures Associated with Lake Matinenda

By Robin Ziebert

I would like to preface the following article by explaining my use of the pronoun "I" rather than the "we" generally used in reference to the Association's Board at large. I have made this distinction in order to make it clear that any errors or biases within this article are entirely mine.

After listening to the opinions voiced at our 2010 Annual Meeting, the Board agreed that it would be prudent to confirm and update our records in regard to the amount of tax revenue generated by Lake Matinenda property owners each year. It was felt that the collection and provision of this information would add weight to current and future negotiations regarding expenditures by the town and aide us in our provincial request for a more accurate assessment and taxation of properties on our lake.

With this in mind, I phoned Mr. Corbiere, the Clerk Administrator for Blind River, and made an appointment to "see the books." Mr. Corbiere was more than generous, providing me with the 2010 Tax Formula Table and access to the Property Assessment Books.

Hampering the project was the unexpected discovery that the information I needed was not on a computer, but was instead spread across the property record books of a number of different townships and only recorded for intermittent years up to 2009. What I had envisioned as a one or two-hour visit to Town Hall stretched into four rather lengthy afternoons.

In addition, I had to use 2008 as my example, since it was the most recent year for which I was able to access the Town's financial record.

I share these details in order to make it abundantly clear that it would be unrealistic to expect the current City Council, or any government body to have had even a vague sense of the information below. In other words, I am sure they will be just as shocked as we are!

Your Taxes

In 2008, the total assessed value of properties on Lake Matinenda was approximately \$12,959,560.

Although the 2008 tax rates were slightly higher than last year, the 2010 formulas were all I had available to me so I used them with the knowledge that the amount of tax revenue generated in 2008 was actually higher than what I am reporting here. Keeping that in mind, total tax revenue generated by Lake Matinenda property owners in 2008 was over \$302,000.

After deductions for school taxes, the 2008 municipal taxes paid by Matinenda property owners to the Town of Blind River was over \$232,248. In comparison, the Town of Blind River reported 2008 "Taxation From Ratepayers" as \$4,520,194. After deductions for the school board, the Town's 2008 "Net Taxation" revenue was \$3,741,8531.¹

Thus, Lake Matinenda property owners provided over 6% of the Town's tax revenue in 2008.

Note:

¹ Revenues, p.6, Town of Blind River's 2008 Financial Statement as it appeared on www.blindriver.com on May 6, 2011.

Continued on page 7



Money (cont'd)

The estimated 2008 expenditures² associated with Lake Matinenda were approximately \$12,100, leaving the town with usable municipal revenue of approximately \$220,148 for that year alone.

Wait, There's More...

Between 2000 and 2010, 26% of the Association's yearly income was divided between various charities and organizations here in town. Another 24% was

used for local services and products purchased for use by the Association (e.g., office supplies, copy costs, food for meetings, etc.). In other words, **over 50% of the Association's yearly income stays right here in Blind River.**

The average cottage owner is estimated to spend at least \$600 per week locally.³ With Matinenda cottagers staying an average of

three to six weeks each, that adds up to about \$900,000 every summer. In addition to these standard expenses, local merchants estimate that our residents spend between \$100,000 and \$200,000 every year on building projects, sporting equipment/licenses and boat storage! That's another **\$1,000,000 for Blind River's local economy every single year!**



Notes:

2 Itemization of Expenditures Associated with Lake Matinenda:

Two Dock Attendants \$7,680 (40 hours/week, \$8/hour, 12 weeks)

One Porta-John rental \$1,120 (\$40/week, 28 weeks)

Garbage Pick-Up \$1,300 (Once per week, an estimated \$25/pick-up, 52 weeks/year)

Landing repair and maintenance, approximately \$2,000

Total \$12,100

3 Estimate provided by FOCA

Time to Renew Your Membership

Please take the time now to renew your membership in the Lake Matinenda Cottage Association and encourage your neighbors on the lake to do the same.

Representation of all cottage owners is desired and key to the Association's ongoing

ability to address concerns and work cooperatively with local officials to complete needed projects.

At our General Meeting, one vote is allowed for each lot owned, provided dues are paid for each parcel. Annual dues for 2011-2012 are set at \$15.

Monies help to cover expenses associated with communications, small projects and building community.

Just clip and complete the form below and send it along with your check to the Association at your earliest convenience.

Lake Matinenda Cottage Association 2011-2012 Membership Registration & Dues

Name(s): _____

Property Location (e.g. Baker's Bay): _____ Lot Number(s): _____

CB Radio Handle: _____ Monitoring CB Channel # _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please provide the information requested with your check for \$15 made payable to Lake Matinenda Cottage Association and mail to:

Lake Matinenda Cottage Association
 Attn: Linda Hamilton, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 1886
 Blind River, Ontario P0R 1B0



Thanks for your ongoing support!

**Lake Matinenda
Cottage Association
Leadership 2010-2011**

Ed Pilon, *President*

Jim Hamilton,
Vice President

Linda Hamilton, *Treasurer*

Robin Ziebert, *Secretary*

Directors:

Caroline Bledsoe

Dick Brennan

Dave Hall

Laure Olsen

Ron Servatius

Our Mission

Dedicated to promoting communication, friendship, conservation of natural beauty and resources, water safety, sanitation and cooperation with public agencies.



New Website Link

A link to the LMCA website is now operational and found on the Clubs and Organizations page of the Town's website:

www.blindriver.com

LAKE MATINENDA COTTAGE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 772
BLIND RIVER, ONTARIO
CANADA P0R1B0



We're on the Web!

Visit us at

www.matinenda.ca