

The Birch Islander

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June, 2023

Smoke is in the Air

Smoke & Fire Dangers

The clouds of smoke that hung over our island at the beginning of June were oppressive and alarming. It is also an important reminder to be extra careful with fire. Recent rains have improved the situation but strict burn bans remain in effect. The smoke has come and gone but could be a problem over the summer. There are health affects from the smoke that Islanders should be aware of. Information can be found on the Weather Network and the Environment Canada website.

Many thanks to our Retiring Volunteers:

Ry Weisiger has decided that it is time for a new trail boss. On behalf of all Islanders, we thank Ry for his contributions over many years keeping the trails mowed, cut and clear.

We are also losing our Treasurer, Val Fullard, who has decided to move on to new things. Many thanks to Val for her work as Treasurer and especially for designing bulletin board at the Marina.

Septic Tank Inspections

The mandatory inspection of all septic tanks on the island by the Township took place at the beginning of June and inspection reports are starting to come

in. Some septic systems are quite old and may need attention of some kind. If you received bad news, there may be an opportunity to group repair/replacement work to save some money and get good advice. Please post your comments on Facebook or send an email.

Spongy Moths

Again, this year spongy moth caterpillars appear to be under control. Annual monitoring is an important step towards preventing the return of a major infestation. Our website has tools that can be used to monitor and control moth/caterpillar populations.

July Fireworks

First of July Fireworks are again being planned by our friends at Sand Lake Marine. Contributions to costs are greatly appreciated and can be dropped at the marina. Please note that the burn ban may force cancellation.

Membership Contributions

Annual contributions remain at \$50.00 and notices have been sent. Your contributions help BIRPOA do the things that help build our community. Our goal is to have every cottage owner contribute to these costs.

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Membership contributions can be made by e-transfer anytime - send to birchisland@gmail.com. Code word is cottage.

Telephone Directory

Efforts are being made to prepare directory of names, phone numbers and email addresses. The plan is to deliver hardcopy to your dock and/or to have copies available at the Marina. This directory is for the private use of BIRPOA Members and all Birch Island residents. If, for any reason, you do not want your information included, please contact us at birchisland@gmail.com.

Annual Picnic & AGM Sunday July 31st, 2023

Save the date for the annual picnic and AGM. Location is still to be decided

Trail Maintenance

The efforts of many islanders over the years, have kept our trails open and usable. The efforts of volunteers such as our outgoing Trail Boss, Ry Weisiger and many others cannot be understated. There is always a need for volunteers. Taking care of the section outside your property will help keep the trails clear and safe.

Interior Lands are Private Property

A further reminder that the interior lands are privately owned and not Crown Land. Removal of trees/firewood, soil, rocks or other materials cannot be done without the permission of the property owner. If you are looking for the owner of a particular property, please post a message on Facebook or send an email.

The initiative on the Trail Lands Rights of Way

The initiative to acquire permanent access to the trails, is progressing slower than expected but we are optimistic. There will be more information on this in the coming months.

BIRPOA Constitution

At the 2022 AGM, the first steps towards updating our constitution to new provincial legislation were taken with bylaw amendments and the election of nine directors. BIRPOA is a corporation under the laws of Ontario and will need to comply with new requirements under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). The deadline for compliance is October, 2024. We expect however to have the updates completed by the end of this year.

Get your rods ready, Bass Season is here

On Behalf of your Board of Directors and Volunteers,

Rory Gooderham