



Inside this issue:

Meet BLPOA Executive 1  
 Wild Parsnips 3  
 Join/ Volunteer - BLPOA 4  
 Black Lake Gear 5  
 2015 AGM Minutes 5  
 Stop the Run Off! 6  
 Give Fish a Home 6  
 Bug the Mosquitoes! 6  
 Facebook Update 7  
 Water Testing Results 7  
 Tay Valley 200th 7  
 Water Level Measurement 8  
 Mike Selig Remembered 9  
 Membership Form 10

# Black Lake Property Owners' Association Newsletter

## Meet some of your BLPOA Executive

### Neris Allan



I have lived in Perth for 30 years, and have been at Black

Lake for 11 years. On the board of the BLPOA since 2010, I am looking toward retirement soon @ Black Lake!

maintenance. I've been doing web-stuff for various non-profits for a few years and enjoy learning new technologies. I retired from the hi-tech sector a couple of years back and this last year my wife Janet and I did a major downsizing move in Ottawa. With less house maintenance to do we're hoping to spend more time at the lake this summer. See you there!

past eight (8) years and prior to that a director at large.

I own and operate my own business, Summit Security and Bralex Telecom and I am a strong community supporter and advocate for promoting life on the lake and ensuring that the well being of this environment is ongoing for our future generations.

### Bruce Burwell



I've been hanging out at the lake since my father built

the cottage on West Bay back in the early 1960s. I got involved in the BLPOA a couple of years ago after I heard my lake neighbor, Carol Williams, say that she was willing to part with the website

### Greg Hallam



I have been a permanent resident

on Black Lake for 20 years and have been a member of the BLPOA and on the executive board since 2004. I have held the role of Vice President for the

### Jonathan Hooper



Our family has been on the lake for the past 30

years and loving every minute of it!! I've been on the executive for over 10 years. My main reason for joining was to get to know other folks from

### Executive Committee

#### Vice President

Bob Porter  
randmporter@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Phillip Dudgeon  
pdudgeon@magma.ca

#### Secretary

Cliff Halliwell  
challiwe@rogers.com

#### Directors at Large

Neris Allan  
nerisallan@gmail.com

Bruce Burwell

Website administrator  
Bruce.burwell@sympatico.ca

Greg Hallam

greg@summitsecurity.ca

Jonathan Hooper

jth@josa.ca

Anita Payne

payanita@gmail.com

Carol Williams

Newsletter editor  
carolandpete@shaw.ca

Black Lake website:

[www.blacklakeassociation.ca](http://www.blacklakeassociation.ca)

**Black Lake Property Owners' Association**

**45th Annual General Meeting July 9, 2016, 9:00 am**

**North Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Rd.**

## *BLPOA Executive 2015-2016 (cont.)*

around the lake and to contribute something as well. It's great to see the flow of information and pictures from our Facebook page. Thus far I have enjoyed my time on the executive and hope to stay on.

### **Anita Payne**



I moved to Black Lake in 1991 with my family and became president

of what was then the Stanleyville Black Lake Association a few months later. We focussed a lot on naturalizing the shorelines by planting native shrubs.

Hugh Burwell, the secretary-treasurer and newsletter editor, did much of the work for the association. Membership levels were high and AGMs were held on Saturday evenings at St. Bridgid's Hall in Stanleyville. We served pie and ice cream and hosted dynamic guest speakers. Attendance was always good. Hugh Burwell also started a lake networking group with representatives from all 6 lakes in North Bur-

gess Township. The township was amalgamated and the networking group grew.

After being away from the lake for 11 years, I came back in 2011 and immediately started attending the Lake Links days each October and then the Lake Networking group as well, which meets in the spring and fall each year. I have been back on the BLPOA board of directors since 2014.

### **Bob Porter**



My wife, Maxine, and I bought our cottage on Black Lake in 2009, and share it with our 2 children

and 2 grandchildren regularly. Recently retired, we now spend the majority of our time at Black Lake, and moved our "city home" to Stittsville to be closer to the cottage.

I am interested in becoming more involved in the Black Lake community, and joined the BLPOA Executive in 2015. I am interested in building BLPOA membership and a sense of community.

### **Carol Williams**



Our cottage on West Bay Drive was built by my husband's father in

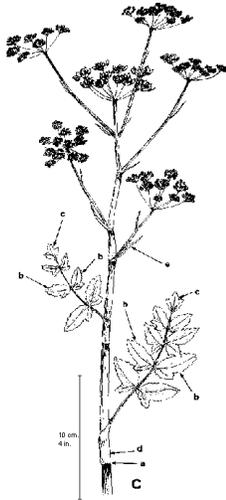
1962. Despite living in Vancouver, we can't resist the lure of Black Lake and return each summer. The cottage is the gathering spot for my 2 children and 5 grand children who travel from Wisconsin and from Vancouver for family time.

I began producing the BLPOA newsletter in 2009, then, with the help of Timo Jaakkimainen, developed the association website, which is now so ably administered by Bruce Burwell. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

**Check the Tay Valley website for location and hours of opening of waste sites.**

<http://tayvalleytwp.ca/resident-services/recycling-and-waste/>

## *Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa)*



### Source:

### Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/wild-parsnip/>

Wild parsnip is an invasive plant native to Europe and Asia. It was likely brought to North America by European settlers, who grew it for its edible root. It is a member of the carrot/parsley family. Since its introduction, wild parsnip has escaped from cultivated gardens and spread across the continent. It is very prevalent in our region, and visible along our county and cottage roads, local waste disposal sites and open fields. The plant is currently found throughout eastern and southern Ontario, and researchers believe it is spreading from east to west across the province. The plant can form dense stands that out-compete native plants, reducing biodiversity.

**While wild parsnip roots are edible, the sap contains chemicals that can cause human skin to react with sunlight, causing severe burns, rashes and blisters. Handling the plant**

**should only be done with extreme care.**

### **How to Identify Wild Parsnip**

Wild parsnip is a biennial plant which typically grows a low, spindly rosette of leaves in the first year while the root develops. In the second year it flowers on a tall stalk and then dies.

- Grows up to 1.5 metres tall.
- The single green stem is two to five cm thick and smooth with few hairs.
- Compound leaves are arranged in pairs, with sharply toothed leaflets that are shaped like a mitten.
- Yellowish green flowers form umbrella-shaped clusters 10-20 centimetres

Additional information:

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/wild\\_parsnip.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/wild_parsnip.htm)

### **Control**

Lanark county announced on April 6, 2016, a 3 year program of spraying in an effort to eradicate wild parsnips. For further details please refer to the Press Release.

<http://www.lanarkcounty.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=6867>

Controlling wild parsnip on your property should be undertaken with care. For additional information you can report sightings to the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or report your sighting online at:

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>

Locally, you can also refer to Tay Valley Township's Web resources regarding noxious weeds.

<http://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/resident-services/noxious-weeds.asp>

**DO NOT** touch, cut or collect parts of the plant for identification purposes.

### **Disposal**

**DO NOT** burn or compost wild parsnip plants that have been cut down or dug up. If possible, leave the stems to dry out completely at the site. Carefully dispose of plant material in black plastic bags and leave in direct sun for a week or more. Tay Valley Township does not accept wild parsnips at the dumpsites and cautions cottagers/home owners not to cut them on their own.

**Bob Porter**



## Join the BLPOA

All Black property owners are encouraged to support the BLPOA by joining the association. The cost of membership is \$25.00.

You want to join the association because:

- You care about water quality and want to promote and assist in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of the lake and surrounding Watershed
- You want to stay up-to-date on issues of common interest to property owners (e.g. mining claims, ticks and Lyme disease)

- You appreciate the association website and Facebook page as a means of sharing useful information (such as bear sightings) and being a repository for key documents
- You want to support the Volunteer Firefighters Association
- You appreciate road signs and want to help cover costs of maintenance

Come to the BLPOA AGM — meet your neighbours and learn more about association activities

Join the Black Lake Property Owners' Association

2016 BLPOA AGM  
July 9, 9 am  
North Burgess Hall  
4174 Narrows Lock Rd.

## Be a Volunteer

Articles 8 -12 in the BLPOA Constitution,

(<http://blacklakeassociation.ca/home/about-us/>) outline

- the duties, and responsibilities of the Board;
- the election, and terms of office of the officers; and
- the formation of committees.

The President is elected directly; the Board appoints three executive positions—the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

Consider volunteering your time—put your name forward to be a board member. Submit nominations to any Board member or at the AGM.

Are you interested in coordinating and ensuring the placement of hazard buoys? If you have a boat and can help, contact any of the Board members. Information on hazard buoys is available at the Black Lake Association website.

(<http://blacklakeassociation.ca/home/about-us/>)



Water Hazard Buoys

For locations, see "About Us" at the BLPOA website

<http://blacklakeassociation.ca>

## Black Lake Gear

Come to the BLPOA AGM, July 9th, (9am, North Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Rd.) or contact Neris Allan (nerisallan@gmail.com) if you are interested in purchasing beautiful Black Lake fashions.



### BLACK LAKE CLOTHING SALE! - All Half Price

We are cleaning up stock.

T-Shirts: starting @ \$6.00 sale price

Golf Shirts(ladies): \$17.50 sale price

Hats with Cape (good for bugs) \$9.00 sale price

Great gifts for those hard to buy for!

Call: 613.264.0615

[email:nerisallan@gmail.com](mailto:nerisallan@gmail.com)

Black Lake Gear  
 Contact Neris Allan  
 (nerisallan@gmail.com)

## Black Lake Property Owners' Association 2015 AGM

The Minutes from last year's AGM are available on the BLPOA website at: <http://blacklakeassociation.ca>.

There were on presentations and updates on issues such as:

- Water testing results
- Sarah MacLeod's RVCA update covering a range of topics including
  - Watershed flooding, spring 2015
  - Algae in Black Lake
  - RVCA activities during the year
  - Ticks and Lyme disease
  - Noxious weeds
- Guest speaker, Lisa Saunder's story of battling Lyme Disease
- BLPOA Financial report
- Tay Valley Township activities
- Hazard buoys

Be sure to attend this year's AGM on July 9th, at North Burgess Hall, 4174 Narrows Lock Rd. Doors open at 8:30 am; the meeting begins at 9:00.

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## *Stop the Runoff!*

With climate change we can expect to continue experiencing more frequent and more severe storms, both in winter and summer. Heavy rain runs over the land instead of infiltrating into the ground. As it runs into the lake, rainwater carries sediments, fertilizers, animal wastes and contamination from septic systems that are not up to snuff. Rainwater should be diverted into the ground, not allowed to run into the lake. Do everything you can to stop this:

- naturalize your shoreline by planting native shrubs; Watersheds Canada will help: <http://watersheds.ca/our-work/the-natural-edge/>
- leave fallen branches where they lie, especially on slopes;
- catch rainwater from roofs; rain barrels with a screen on top (to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in the water) are efficient. The water should be used before the next rain. Water your gardens or lawn (if you have one) on drier days between rains. This will ensure that during the next rain, the barrels will be able to hold the new water. Water will infiltrate into the ground better on drier days. Stickers for your rainbarrels that remind you to drain them before the next rain will be available at the AGM.

**Anita Payne**

## *Give Fish a Home!*

Several other lakes in the area have had pickerel spawning bed improvement projects. In the 1990s the MNR stocked our lake with walleye fingerlings and called me to discuss getting public access to the lake. Shortly thereafter the MNR had funding cutbacks and I never heard from them again. In the meantime a previous township council sold off the land necessary for a parking lot at an unopened road allowance, so it is unlikely that we will ever have public access. This means that we won't get provincial funding for fish habitat improvement.

However, there is something that you can do. Natural lakes have fallen trees around the shoreline which are refuges for fish. You can build a brush bundle and drop it into the lake to simulate natural conditions. Insert old Christmas trees into a pail of cement to make a concrete base. Bundle hardwood branches using nylon (not polypropylene) rope. Drop these into the lake about 6 feet below the surface so they do not impede boat traffic.

**Anita Payne**

## *Bug the Mosquitoes!*

Want to sit out on your deck after dark and not be carried away by mosquitoes? I haven't tried this yet, but others in the area have and say that it works and doesn't smell bad. Make a mixture of stale beer, blue mouthwash and Epsom salts and spray it on your deck. Information online says that alcohol based mouthwash is bad for plants but Epsom salts are good. Another suggestion is to spray a mixture of garlic and water. Or you can try to attract and trap mosquitoes with a little lemon dishwashing liquid in water on a white plate. To prevent mosquitoes or ticks from biting you, eat a lot of fresh garlic (but your friends might want to stay away too). Try these or other alternative methods for mosquito control and share your results in our Facebook group.

**Anita Payne**

## *BLPOA FaceBook Update*

Over the last year the membership and activity in the BLPOA Facebook group has increased significantly. Currently there are 70 members up from about 50 a year ago. What I enjoy about it the most are the great photos people post of things going on at the lake when I can't be there to see it myself. This winter there were photos of the ice coming in and going out, sunrises and sunsets and even a couple of brave souls skating on the lake. Of course there are also discussions about more serious topics of

interest like ticks, zoning by-laws and cellphone reception. So if you're not already part of the group click on the Facebook icon and join now!



***Bruce Burwell***

## *Water Testing Results—2015*

All nutrient results were below their respected guidelines. There were no results above the provincial water quality guideline (PWQO) for total phosphorous (20 µg/l) or the established guideline for total Kjeldahl nitrogen (500 µg/l).

All E.coli samples were well below the standard of 100 colony forming units/100ml.

All secchi depth readings were above 2m, which is needed to support aquatic life in the lake.

Calcium reading was 23.1 mg/l, indicat-

ing moderate to good growth for zebra mussels. Calcium is a function of the geology of the lake rather than human influences.

### **Kaitlin Brady**

Acting Surface Water Quality Coordinator  
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority  
phone 613-692-3571 ext. 1154  
fax 613-692-0831  
email [kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca](mailto:kaitlin.brady@rvca.ca)  
[www.rvca.ca](http://www.rvca.ca)

## *Tay Valley 200th*

Tay Valley Township has celebrations planned marking 200 years of European settlement. Check the list of this summer's events at the website:  
[events&promotions@tayvalleytwp.ca](http://events&promotions@tayvalleytwp.ca).

The cottage legacy program recognizes legacy cottages in three different age

ranges—30 years, 50 years, and 100 years, as of July 1, 2016. Read legacy stories submitted by Black Lake cottagers—<http://blacklakeassociation.ca/home/about-us/tay-valley-200th/>. Send your story to BLPOA website administrator, Bruce Burwell ([bruce.burwell@sympatico.ca](mailto:bruce.burwell@sympatico.ca)) for inclusion on the page.

## *Black Lake Water Level Measurement*

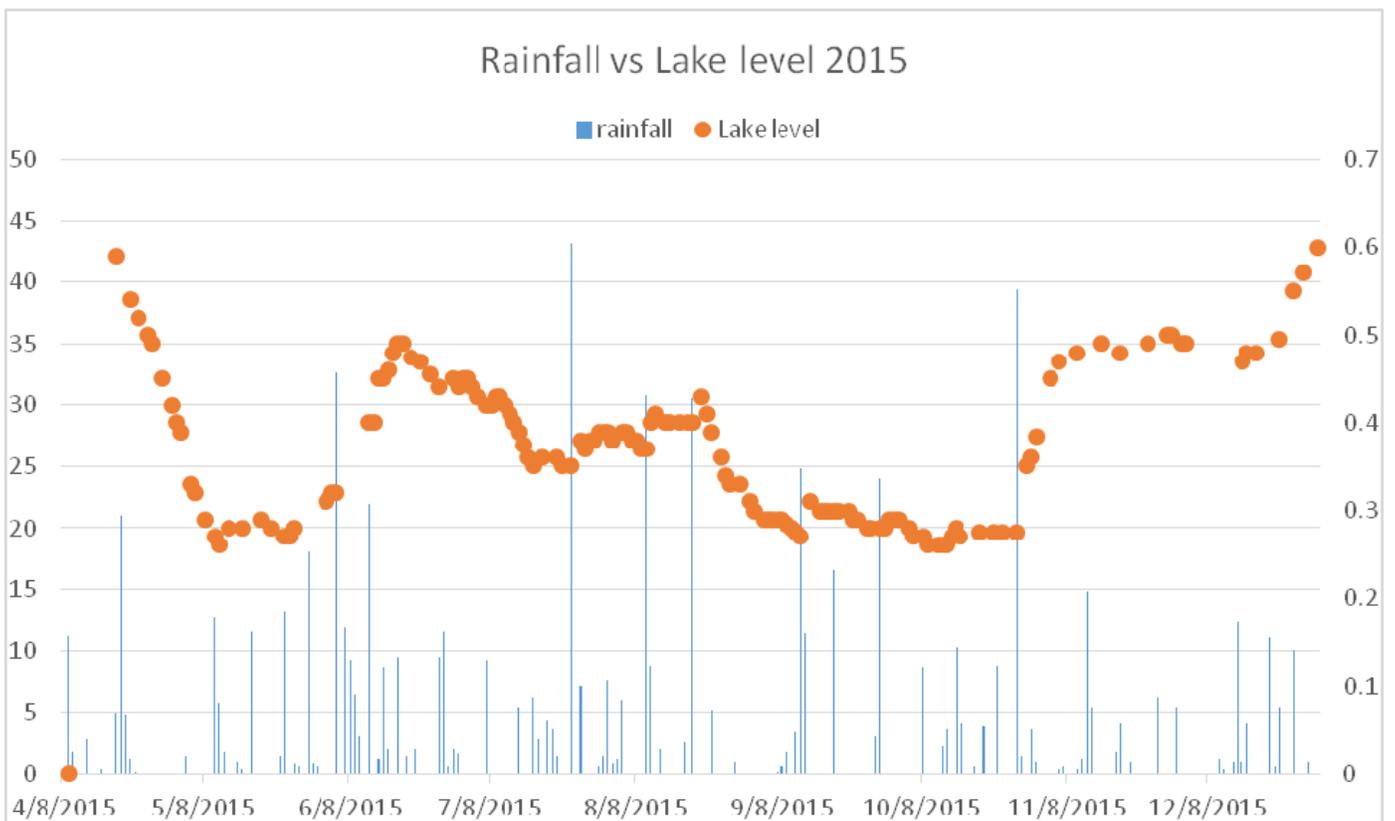
Over the last couple of years volunteer Elliot Neumann has been measuring and recording the level of Black Lake on a regular basis for use by the RVCA and ourselves. And while we all think we can judge the lake level based on what our eyes tell us its great to have the historical data so we can tell whether its actually high or low for this time of year.

The lake has a couple of minor inflows on the north/west side and one major outflow, Black Creek, on the south/east side. I've been plotting the lake levels for a couple of years based on Elliot's data and adding in some rainfall data from a local weather station (Drummond) to see if I can draw any conclusions about what influences the

lake level. Here are my conclusions:

- If it rains a lot then the lake level goes up. If it's dry for a while then the level goes down. I'll bet that doesn't come as a huge surprise to you!
- The only other thing that appears to influence the lake level are beaver dams on Black Creek. In early December of 2014 the lake was as high as its been in the last couple of years. When a beaver dam was removed that month the lake dropped back to mid-summer levels in a couple of weeks.

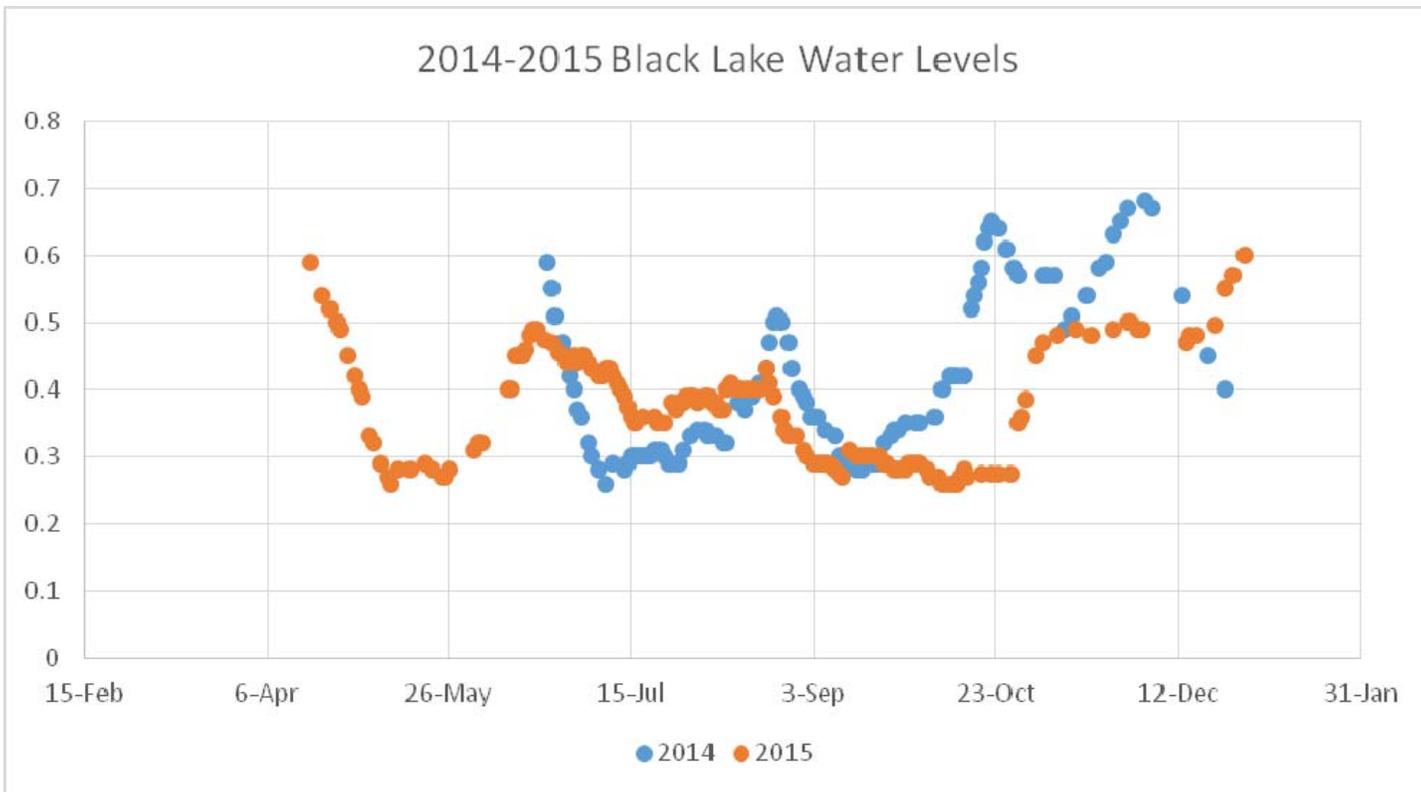
This is a graph of lake level versus rainfall for last year. The vertical bars are daily rainfall measurements in millimeters as measured on the left axis.



## Water Level Measurement (cont.)

This is a graph comparing 2014 and 2015 lake levels. You can see the peak in early December 2014 when the beaver dam was removed. As I write this (April 26<sup>th</sup>) the spring 2016 level now looks fairly low for this time of year (its less than 0.50 on the left hand scale) so I am guessing there isn't a significant beaver dam on Black Creek right now. But when it warms up and I get my canoe out I'll go have a look!

**Bruce Burwell**



## Remembering Mike Selig—1942-2016

Mike Selig was a long time member of the Black Lake Property Owners' Association until moving to Perth in 2009. As President of the BLPOA for several years, Mike was passionate about serving the community and ensuring the association was meeting the needs of its members. He organized

a survey to determine the main areas of concern. (A summary of results is published in the Fall 2009 BLPOA Newsletter and is referenced on the website under Lake Issues—Water Quality.

<http://blacklakeassociation.ca/home/lake-issues/>)

Mike passed away on February 7, 2016, at his home in Perth. A celebration of life will be held on July 3, 2016, at 2:30 pm at the Perth Civitan Club. Following is a link to his obituary:

<http://www.odacrefamily.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=765439#/>

## *Black Lake Property Owners' Association Mission and Objectives*

As stated in the BLPOA Constitution, the Mission of the Association is to identify and maintain an interest in the issues of broad-based concern that may impact the value of owning property abutting Black Lake while at the same time promoting or undertaking activities that will help foster a community spirit.

The objectives of the Association are:

- To represent all Black Lake Property Owners.
- To help preserve and/or enhance the quality of life for all residents of Black Lake by providing a forum to collectively discuss and, if possible, resolve issues of common concern.
- To provide a unified voice in all matters pertaining to and directly affecting Black Lake's water, shoreline, watershed and adjacent lands. Issues of on-going interest include, but are not limited to: health of the environment; crime prevention; fire safety; road maintenance; safety in/on the water; noise/light pollution; and, development activity.
- To monitor the activity of and liaise with the Township of Tay Valley, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, government agencies and other lake associations, as appropriate to identify and/or comment on the potential impact of an issue or initiative on Association members.
- To initiate and/or support activities that will facilitate members getting to know their neighbours and develop a sense of community.

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## **BLACK LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION — 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Black Lake Phone Number: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Black Lake Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different than above):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form along with payment of \$25.00 made payable to:

**Black Lake Property Owner's Association, P.O. Box 20006, Perth, Ontario, K7H 3M6**

You can subscribe to the annual newsletter and occasional email updates at:

<http://blacklakeassociation.ca/home/contact-us/manage-your-subscriptions/>