

## 2016 Update

Lake Watch started with monitoring the lake for logs and debris that had come loose during the spring thaw. We will continue to monitor the lake and perform environmental testing to assist in monitoring the year to year differences in the water. We all need to be vigilant to keep the lake as pristine as possible and watch what is happening around your property and area.

### **Boating & Buoys:**

The buoys went in on time in May and only one buoy came off its mark in a storm. We had one unfortunate boating accident on the lake this year and encourage everyone to be safe on the water.

### **Lake Levels:**

Lake levels this year were consistent with the measurements that were taken from previous years. The MNR Water Management team put on a great presentation at the 2016 ECO day workshop showing the complexity of the water shed and the challenges they face keeping the water level consistent with the weather patterns. We will continue to send out lake level updates during the spring thaw.

### **Working With Partners:**

The University of Waterloo student water monitoring lost their funding in 2016 but we have written to the University in hope that the funding will return in the future. The Muskoka Watershed Council has been working with the PLA to update their directives and Bylaws. The PLA is the longest running Lake Association and the University of Waterloo conducted interviews with members in the PLA to understand how the association works and its challenges moving forward. This information will be added to other lake associations to compile a best practice for any future lake associations that want to create one on their lake.

### **Loons:**

It was a disappointing year on the lake with no baby loons surviving. Eggs were seen on the nest on Grassy Island but nature did not allow them to hatch. Two new loon platforms were made and deployed on the lake to assist the loons in managing the water level changes and wave management due to boating. Our plan is to add a few more next spring. If you are paddling the shore line and see a nesting platform, please keep a safe distance to allow the loons their space. If you see any new loons on the lake please let the Association know so they can track their progress.

### **Bats:**

Bats are under stress in the area and although no one wants them in their house, they are essential to the environment and keeping the insect population at bay. Five bat houses were made and put up around the Meadow along Maplehurst Dr. We are hoping the bats will take to the new houses and thrive in the area. We all need to embrace these wonderful creatures that eat 1000 mosquitoes an hour and can live up to 40 years. Our plan is to make more and install them around the lake. We encourage everyone to make a bat house and help the population grow.