



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FLEAFEST 2019

Saturday, July 27 10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Rockhaven Inn, Kahshe Lake

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Come out join our Muskoka Seaflea Celebration at Rockhaven Inn this summer! "Fleafest Nine" will take place on Saturday, July 27, rain or shine. Building on the success of Fleafest 2017, we will once again play host to a wide variety of homebuilt craft, both in the water and on land. Kahshe Lake has a long tradition of boat racing with many drivers from those golden years still very much a part of the lake today! Fleafest not only pays tribute to these "Kahshe Lake Hot Rod Pioneers" but also celebrates the new generation of young builders and enthusiasts.

Huh? What's a Seaflea?

For the uninitiated, the term Seaflea is a generic name given to any number of small boat designs that are generally home built. The typical seafleas of yesterday were 8 to 12 feet in length and powered by motors from 2 1/2 to 25 hp. Once popular, (long before the advent of personal water craft), they were great family projects and were not only safe to drive but also the envy of any other boy or girl on the lake who was unlucky enough not to have one.

So who are these "Muskoka Seaflea" people?

Chris Taylor, Andrew Taylor and Rob Renton began the Muskoka Seaflea Organization back in 2001. Our families have been on this lake since the late 1800's when our Great Grandfather (William Churchill) worked on the logging camp at Housey's Rapids. Alfred Taylor (Chris and Andrew's Grandfather) owned the Housey's Rapid's general store during the 30's and 40's. When we started cottaging here in the 60's the lake was buzzing with a variety of craft that inspired us to continue this boating tradition with our own kids.

Our affiliation with The Kahshe Lake Ratepayers Association, Kids and Classics Boats, Tohatsu Outboard Motors, ACBS Toronto, Muskoka Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Show, The Muskoka Boat and Heritage Centre, The Maple Leaf Chapter of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, TORC, The Canadian Boating Federation and the Ontario Power Boat Racing Association as well as other organizations has made us the Number 1 resource on the Internet for all things seaflea. With over 1000 members alone on our forum, and photo and video contributions from Canada, the U.S. and around the world we have assembled a wealth of knowledge on boat designs, building information and plans ... all absolutely free!

So just what exactly is "Fleafest?"

This family-oriented fun-filled day will take place at the historic Rockhaven Inn on beautiful Kahshe Lake. Over 50 vintage and homebuilt seafleas will be in the water and on land. The focus of this event will be the celebration of seafleas and hydroplane racing that has been a part of this lake since the 1950's. Kluey's Bay and Housey's Rapids were once the hub of organized racing during the golden age. Organized and sanctioned racing today on the lake is tricky, however Fleafest 2019 will again see new and vintage hydro's in a variety of competitive and non-competitive events and demonstrations. We are anticipating many "seafleas" participating from our own lake, as well as from the Muskoka region and beyond! Previous Fleafest Shows have attracted boats from as far away as Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa and New York state. Also on display will be a number of seaflea designs in various stages of construction for the novice builder.

Things to see and do at Fleafest!

As well as the many boats on display, there will also be a BBQ food court area, a variety of free craft activities for kids, a "Flea-Market" with vendors selling everything and anything related to boating, antique outboard motor displays and our ever-popular "seaflea ride-a-long" experience. And.... Fleafest is not just for fleas..... Jeff Glandfield from Pelham, Ontario will be cruising around the bay in his home built 10' Mini Tug Boat! You have to see this to believe it! The highlight of the day will be the seaflea drive-by parade in front of the docks at Rockhaven Inn where the public will vote for our popular "People's Choice Award". The winning "flea owner" will go home with our one-of-a-kind and VERY exclusion Fleafest trophy. Second and third place winners will receive a variety of prizes and gift baskets donated by "The Candy Shoppe".

Dogs with Fleas!

New this year is the "Dogs with Fleas" race where drivers will navigate a pre-defined course along with their own dogs as acting as co-pilots. The first-place winner will take home our prestigious "Dogs with Fleas" trophy with runners-up being presented with doggy gifts donated by Gravenhurst Pet Valu.

Fleafest would not be possible without the on-going support from the following people and organizations: (in no particular order) Dennis and Judy Ring, The Kahshe Lake Ratepayers Association, Ron Stevenson, Rob Abbott, Keith Price, Dave Jeffery, Ross Jewiss, Greig Holder, Greg and Jennifer Lewis, Wendy and Dennis Houlberg, Clare Henderson, Greg Keeling, Gord Robinson, Dave Edwards, Cathan DeForest, Peter Land, the entire Godfrey Family, The Town of Gravenhurst, The Candy Shoppe and the many others who have not yet agreed to help out with this year's production.

Admission to the general public is free. Participants must pre-register their boats on our Muskoka Seaflea website in order to bring their seafleas. Registration and further information is available at our website: www.muskokaseaflea.ca. We eagerly invite members of the media and the general public to Fleafest 2019 from 10:00 am to 4:00pm on Saturday, July 27. Come spend the day with us on the water! Get wet, bring your dog and have some fun!