



Celebrating 25 Years of Muskoka Seaflea

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FLEAFEST 2026

Saturday, July 25 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - Rockhaven Inn - 1312 North Kahshe Lake Rd, Kahshe Lake, Ontario

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Come join our **Muskoka Seaflea 25th Anniversary Celebration** at Rockhaven Inn this summer! "Fleafest" will take place on Saturday, July 25, rain or shine. Once again we will play host to a wide variety of homebuilt craft, both on 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!

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, The Canadian Raceboat Hall of Fame, 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 2026 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 Alberta, Quebec, 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, RC Model Boat Racing, 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. 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. Returning this year is our extremely popular and crowd pleasing "**Dogs with Fleas**" race where drivers will navigate a predefined 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.

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

Prizes will be given out throughout the day donated by our generous sponsors and partners!



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, Bailey's Barge Service, XKvate Construction, The Town of Gravenhurst, PetValu Gravenhurst, and the many others who will 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 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00pm on Saturday, July 25. Come spend the day with us on the water! Get wet, bring your dog and have some fun!