

Clear Lake Property Owners' Association Annual Newsletter - 2010

Greetings to all Clear Lake Cottagers. As always, this annual newsletter is intended to inform you of events of interest and to thank you for your continued support of the Association. For newcomers to our lake, welcome. We hope that you will help to preserve and enjoy it as much as we do, and that you will find something of interest in our calendar of events. The ice went out at the earliest date in recent memory, (March 29) and we're hoping for a long hot summer of fun and continued stewardship of our wonderful shared asset: Clear Lake

Annual Meeting.

Saturday July 3rd at Camp PineCrest. We're back in the Environmental Centre building that we have used several times; at the fork in the camp road go left to the rope climbing area instead of straight forward to the dining hall. You can park there. It's now called Winter Lodge and a little loon told me that it's been completely renovated and should offer a perfect spot for our meeting again. Please note the meeting time ... 10:00 am sharp to 12:00 noon.

Try to arrive with a few minutes to socialize and catch up on the winter news so that we can respect everyone's desire to adjourn on time and get back to enjoying the lake. There are always a few relevant issues on the agenda for anyone who calls Clear Lake their summer home. Refreshments will be served and we'd love to see every cottage represented!

PS...This is an election year! Where did the two (2) year term go?

Your Executive for the Clear Lake Property Owners' Association:

Gary Deathe (President) – standing for re-election
Brian Ternoway (Vice President) – standing for re-election
Sharon Cleverdon (Treasurer) – standing for re-election
Anisa Chernecki (Secretary) – standing for re-election
Steve Ramsay (Director) – standing for re-election
Suzanne McLennan (Director) – standing for re-election
Ron Algate (Director) – standing for re-election

Your Executive (email: executive@clearlakemuskoka.ca) must really like working with each other as so many are willing to stand for re-election but honestly, it's an awful lot of work and I want to take a quick moment to thank them for their past and future time commitments. If any CLPOA member would like to put forth another's name to stand for election (with their agreement) please come along, prepared to nominate them at the AGM.

Regatta

Another holiday weekend, another event. Regatta returns on **Saturday July 31st** with the usual program of the hotly contested, decorated Boat Parade at 11:00 leaving from the Big Bay, followed by swimming events, prizes and lunch (hot dogs, pop and chips) starting at 1:00 **at the Little Bay Road waterfront..** Further details will be communicated by flyer later in July. We've been blessed with good weather and great participation over the past few years and I'm sure that kids young and old are looking forward to the thrill of competition again this year.

Augustfest – now SummerFest

Saturday August 7. Yes, it's two weeks in a row this year, due to some scheduling conflicts/site availability and a **NEW FORMAT**, tentatively named Clear Lake SummerFest. I guess that John Frame and I can finally turn in our auctioneer gavels this year.

We've decided after much discussion to change the traditional format in favour of what we hope will have even more appeal to all ages with additional social time that marked the highlight of AugustFest. On the grounds of the Clear Lake Resort, we're going to have some mini-Olympics style events starting @ 4:00 with fun for all age groups, especially the younger, energetic crowd. Bring your cameras!

Next we'll have barbequed hot dogs, chips and drinks from 6-8:00 with plenty of time to catch up with neighbours and meet new Clear lake cottagers.

Finally, we'll have a live band and dance from 7:00-10:00, suitable for the late teen to 100 year olds. Those of you much older than me might remember when the early Association used to host a regular dance at the Torrance Community Centre. Not only was there a Regatta Dance but there also used to be a Torrance Teen Town dance.

Plan to come for any or all of the afternoon and evening as your interests and time permit.

Cost is \$10 per person, open to all CLPOA members and their guests, tickets will be available at the AGM, the Regatta and at the gate. **Age 12 and under come free as well as our NEW (never before) members paid by the AGM!** Anchoring on the Clear Lake Resort waterfront is available for boaters as is on site parking.

Rain date will be Sunday August 8th starting @ 12:00-4:00

Water Quality

Our lake clarity and quality for drinking, recreation and support of natural aquatic life remains the top priority of the CLPOA. Our Lake continues to be listed as "above threshold" for phosphorous levels. This directly feeds ideal conditions for algae growth which in turn can produce algae blooms and reduced clarity, especially in hot, dry summers as forecast for this year. The lake is still in good shape and continues to be a jewel of Muskoka, but was aided by the cooler summer of '09 and trends towards higher levels of phosphorous should be a continued wake up call against all products containing phosphorous, especially dish washer and laundry machine detergent. Remember, what goes in the septic still ends up in the lake to some degree. There are viable green cleaning products widely available that any Board member would be only too happy to discuss with you and many are listed on our website www.clearlakemuskoka.ca. A copy of the 2009 Water Testing Results is included with this newsletter and will be discussed further at the AGM.

Septic Talk

Get your septic tanks pumped every two years; it's a cheap insurance policy against very expensive repairs or replacement ahead of their time. Similarly, herbicides and pesticides of any nature are a strict no-go anywhere around the lake environment. Dandelions are nice at the cottage! Think twice (and think again) when cleaning boats, power washing docks or filling gas tanks....a little common sense goes a long way and little efforts really add up. Make sure any renters know these rules as well.

Your CLPOA Board has unanimously agreed to continue to fund and participate in a water testing program, in conjunction with Muskoka Lakes Association Water Quality Initiative. All health organizations recommend boiling any lake water if used for drinking. Cottagers who wish to be assured that the water is free of contaminants have several options available to them including boiling, filtration, or arranging their own periodic testing of their tap water. Clear Lake testing is for general quality benchmark assurance and not for drinking safety.

Loon nest

We've been lucky enough to have a returning pair of loons on Clear Lake for as long as I can remember. They've been here even before we had a coin named after them and remain the closest thing to the quintessential "cottage sound" that I know of; followed closely by the Torrance train horns at night. Most years they have successfully reared young but less often in the recent decade. They've taken to nesting on the big island the last few years for some reason, so here comes that common sense thing again: Please keep boat wakes around the island down to a minimum through June if they are nesting there or until you see the young swimming out on the lake. Under no circumstances should you approach the nesting area, even in a canoe or kayak. Our best intentions of seeing them up close or getting a special camera shot can be disastrous for nervous loon parents. Let's give them a chance!

Fishing

The Ministry of Natural Resources stocked our lake with 1800 Rainbow Trout fingerlings this fall. Word is they were particularly large this year. The last time we were stocked was 2005 with 1000 fish. Survival rates for fish this small is expected to be in the 10 to 15% range so there should eventually be about 200 good sized Rainbows waiting to be caught. If the summer is warm, expect to find them deeper. The MNR would like to see evidence that the program is working.

Send your digital pictures to website@clearlakemuskoka.ca As a side note, I've always found it preferable to keep a one-use camera in my tackle box to record the memories of "the big one" and then practice catch-and-release.

Remember, Smallmouth bass season doesn't open until midnight, the last **Friday** in June. Fishing for anything before that date, means you run the very real risk of pulling aggressive bass off of their spawning beds and putting their fry at risk to other predatory species.

Largemouth Bass continue to gain more of a presence in Clear Lake and the non-appreciated pike appear to be here to stay; both more numerous and larger individually. Pike are not indigenous to Clear Lake, can be kept at any time and disposed of (away from any properties please) in an effort to cull their numbers.

Launch Ramp

As a reminder, the launch ramp on Clear Lake road is a private ramp, located on Dr. MacBain's property. All cottagers' are reminded to ask permission before using the ramp and to restrict their use to a single seasonal launch and removal if possible. Please also be reasonable in your planning... late night or early morning disturbances are not appropriate and could lead to loss of use. Also, please discourage renters from bringing boats with them, as they can harbour invading species on their hull or as part of internal water. Similarly, moving your own boats from lake to lake can result in similar problems. Returning boats should be left out of water for at least 24 hours or until completely dry, then scrubbed or power washed. Internal water should be drained on dry land, far away from the watershed area.

Cottage Watch

There will be a "Cottage Watch" report at the AGM. With the advent of more year round residences, incidents of break-ins have lessened. However, if you or any one you know has suffered a break-in or attempted break-in over the last year, please let any one of the Executive know as soon as possible.

Wildlife Watch

This winter, we've had increased sightings of moose, bears (with cubs), and even ermine (looks like a white mink that time of year). Canadian lynx are more common, as are coyotes and brush wolves. We love your photos! Send them to website@clearlakemuskoka.ca for display on the website. The main concern is still our bear friends who will take every opportunity to check through your garbage and see what you've been eating that week. Please, place garbage in a bear/raccoon proof containers only on the morning of your regular pickup.

Membership Lists

An updated membership and address list will be available for pick up at all three of our events this year. If you have any changes, please complete the attached and return it to Sharon Cleverdon at your earliest opportunity.

Thanks

The operation of your association and the success of its events are a testament to the support of cottagers and to the efforts of the dozens who volunteered their time and energy. A big Clear Lake salute to all of you who pitched in to help last year....you made our lake a better place.

As always, we need continued help and volunteers to make the Regatta and the new SummerFest a big success. Anyone who is thinking of helping out, even in a small way is invited to complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible or bring your thoughts to the AGM or see Steve Ramsay (SummerFest) or Anisa Chernecki (Regatta).

Camp Pine Crest

YMCA Camp Pine Crest has a lot to celebrate this year! Come join them for the 100th Anniversary Celebration on June 12th between 10 and 4:30pm. The day's events will include decade museums, a brief ceremony mid day, presentations by alumni supporters, camp activities and a traditional canoe marathon in the afternoon. Details and registration information is available online at www.camppinecrest.ca

The YMCA looks forward to sharing in the celebration with their neighbours on Clear Lake.

In addition, Camp Pine Crest is having an Open House in conjunction with their 100th Anniversary. It's August 7 from 11-3:00 with a free BBQ. Why not head on over before our SummerFest and make a complete day of it? Two free BBQ meals by the lake on the same day? I'm in Heaven!

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your continued financial support of the Association again this year with payment of the **annual \$30 membership fee**. These fees help to fund Association responsibilities, such as marking the shoals with our new buoys (I almost forgot to thank Paul Traves for having them out early this year and please folks, no tying up to them!) plus offsetting the costs of the Regatta, SummerFest and the Water Testing Program. All of the Executive volunteer their time 100% and early return of the fees in the enclosed envelope will be appreciated. Up to four (4) voting memberships per property (defined as having an individual tax roll number) are allowed under our bylaws.

Don't forget to visit our very own website www.clearlakemuskoka.ca and have a safe and happy summer, everyone. See you on the lake and be sure to wave.

Yours truly,

Gary Deathe
President
CLPOA