

Clear Lake Property Owner's Association Annual Newsletter - 2013

Greetings to all Clear Lake Cottagers and welcome to summer 2013. As always, this annual newsletter is intended to update you on current issues, inform you of events of interest and to thank you for your continued support of the Association. For newcomers to our lake, a warm welcome to you as well.

The ice left a little later this year and Winter hung on stubbornly into April, a stark contrast to last year when ice out was one of the earliest dates in recent memory. With a significant snow melt, water levels are quite high so far and the Bala falls are spectacular. So here's hoping for a beautiful period of both fun and continued environmental stewardship of the wonderful shared asset that is Clear Lake.

Township Committee Of the Whole Meeting to discuss Clear Lake ramp alternatives.

As you are likely aware, the Mayor and local Councillors hosted a public meeting at the Torrance Community Centre on Saturday June 18 to learn more about our pending ramp issue, first hand. Close to 150 cottagers were in attendance, showing this is very much at the forefront in the minds of the membership.

Excellent points were made on both sides of a mostly civilized discussion and I believe we made significant progress. It is now understood that the majority of cottagers are simply looking for a way to get their boats in the water on a once in and once out schedule and would be amenable to a time-restricted ramp solution.

Admittedly, this would still not be a perfect solution for everyone, but should go a long way in taking away excessive summer traffic from those living near the current ramp and the proposed public right of way access.

We also heard more details of an offer for use of a ramp to potentially be built on private property. The Mayor will be directing Township staff to review the offer and determine if it's a viable location that meets all of the township zoning by-laws and the Ministry of the Environment criteria.

I'm absolutely convinced that we're doing the right thing in engaging the Mayor and Councillors in seeking a compromise solution and we thank them for their time and attention.

Subsequent to this ongoing process, an update will be given on the remaining alternatives during a Township Committee Of the Whole meeting on Tuesday June 18 at 9:00AM. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, 1 Bailey Street, Port Carling, Ontario.

All are invited and encouraged to attend and be heard.

Existing Launch Ramp

In the meantime, please remember that 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. Also, please discourage renters from bringing boats with them, as they can harbour invading species on their hull or as part of internal water. 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. A huge thank you to the MacBain family for this final season of use!

CLPOA Special Meeting followed by our Annual General Meeting

The meeting will be held on Saturday June 29th at the Torrance Community Centre. Please note the meeting time, 10:00AM sharp.

We have had three resignations from the Board this winter and although this is not an election year, as per our bylaws, we need to elect another Director in order to have a full quorum to allow us to continue to deal with Association business. Therefore, the first order of business will be a call for nominations to fill one Director position. We're looking for team players to truly serve, not divisive "one issue" nominations please. We've already have interest from a member with previous public board experience, so that's positive. If the new Director can also fill the Secretary's role and keep the minutes for 3 meetings per year, all the better. In addition, Brian Ternoway has assumed the role of interim treasurer.

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 full time or summer home. Refreshments will be served and we'd love to see every cottage represented, so remind your neighbours and carpool over!

There's not much to update on the Camp Pine Crest rezoning issue, as we haven't heard anything from them recently. But the concerns we have regarding current road traffic and safety issues are still valid and we'll do our best to keep on top of any changes and update you accordingly.

Clear Lake has lost some huge personalities from our history

I'm saddened to report the passing of several long standing Clear Lake Cottagers in the past year. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of Delphine McClennan, John Frame, Bill Cleverdon, Bob Kenwright and Marie Plock.

Bill Cleverdon, Bob Kenwright and John Frame were all past Presidents of the CLPOA. Bill Cleverdon was the corn cooker for years, using that old furnace oil burner from a furnace to heat up the galvanized tubs for the corn. John Frame is remembered as the best Augustfest Auctioneer ever (why DID I buy that ugly oil painting?) and for getting a ticket from police while on his raft! Delphine was a Clear Lake cottager since 1925, and I'll never forget her shaming the ladies for not taking part in the Regatta tug of war, by herself striding out in the water while in her 80's. Marie Plock, along with her husband Claus, graciously allowed the CLPOA to use part of their property for the Augustfest for a number of years. They will all be greatly missed.

Regatta returns to the Big Bay

When I was a little boy, spending the summer at Clear Lake meant the Regatta around the McClennan's dock, competing with my friends in swimming events and the junior tug of wars. Well, on **Saturday August 3rd** we'll be returning there with the usual program of the hotly contested, decorated Boat Parade at 11:00 for the coveted "Broken Paddle Award". The parade leaves from the Big Bay for a tour around the lake, followed by swimming events, prizes and refreshments (hot dogs, corn on the cob and pop free for all who attend) starting at 1:00 in the sandy beach waterfront NW corner of the very top of the lake. 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.

We'll have the waterfront area well marked for boat parking and you can also come by road to 1032 Clear Lake Road. This is our sole big event this year so come down to socialize with your neighbours and a bite to eat, even if you don't have kids competing. You can cheer them all on instead! A big thank you to the McClennan families and neighbours for hosting on their property once again.

Since this day is primarily attended by those with younger families (and email), we won't be reminding you of this date via door to door flyer this year. Put it on your calendars now → **Saturday August 3rd!**

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 but the good news is that at least those levels are steady and not rising. This directly feeds ideal conditions for



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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 higher levels should be a continued wake up call against all products containing phosphorous, especially washing 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. You can also check out our website at www.clearlakemuskoka.ca under the Keeping it Clean tab, where there is a good list of environmentally friendly products.

Your CLPOA Board has unanimously agreed to continue funding of regular Clear Lake water testing in conjunction with the Muskoka Lakes Association. However, testing is for general quality benchmark assurance and not for drinking safety. A copy of the 2012 water testing results is attached. Sharon and Bob Cleverdon have agreed to continue conducting the water testing program on our behalf and we want to thank them for this.

Get your septic tanks pumped every two years; it's a cheap insurance policy against very expensive repairs or replacements 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.

Loon Nest

Cottaging just wouldn't be cottaging without them; our loons! For many years they have successfully reared young chicks, but oddly enough, two very different types of boats are a threat to them; wakeboard boats (or any boat making a large wake) which may wash out a nest and canoes/kayaks which encourage well-intentioned nature lovers to get a bit too close.

Please keep boat wakes to a minimum around nesting sites or the loon chicks while they are young. Under no circumstances should you approach the nesting area or young, even in a canoe or kayak. Let's give them a chance whether they choose the big island again or nest in the lower camp bay!

Fishing

We'd love to see your fishing (or any wildlife pictures) on the CLPOA website. Please email them to executive@clearlakemuskoka.ca

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 as well as use non-leaded weights. Remember, Smallmouth bass season doesn't open until midnight, the 4th Saturday in June. Fishing for anything before that date, means you run the very real risk of pulling aggressive bass off of their spawning and putting their fry at risk to other predatory species.

Largemouth Bass continue to gain more of a presence in Clear Lake and the newly present pike are thriving; both more numerous and larger individually. Pike are not indigenous to Clear Lake, should be kept and eaten or disposed of (away from any properties please) in an effort to cull their numbers.

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

I believe this would be the year for our resident black bear to have new cubs. She can be a little crankier with little ones, so be aware and don't ever get between her and the new babies! She and her friends will take every opportunity to open your birdfeeder or check through your garbage to see what you've been



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eating that week. Please, place garbage in a bear/raccoon proof container 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 notify us at your earliest opportunity.

Special 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 hat's off 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 a big success. Anyone who is thinking of helping out, even in a small way is invited to make your interest known at the AGM.

Finally, I'd like to ask for your financial support of the Association again this year by becoming a member and paying the **annual \$30 membership fee**. The membership fees help to fund Association responsibilities, such as marking the shoals with our new buoys (no tying up to them!), water testing, insurance and offsetting the costs of the member events. I am also delighted that Sharon Cleverdon has agreed to stay on as the Membership Committee Chairperson. Sharon has given so much of her time in this role over the years and we thank her for her service. Early return of your membership form and fees to her in the enclosed envelope will be appreciated. Remember, you can have up to four paid memberships per property, so get the next generation involved!

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly and save postage, we will continue to build our email distribution list. If have not yet provided us with your email, please include it with your membership form.

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.

Personal Regards,

Gary Deathe
President

On behalf of the Board, Clear Lake Property Owners Association