

Spring Newsletter

April 2024

2024 AGM AND ELECTION

The AGM will be held on Saturday, June 29th at the Torrance Community Centre at 10 AM. Refreshments will be served, and we hope every cottage will be represented. Come early, carpool with neighbours or walk over. It is a good chance to visit fellow cottagers. Note: Zion Presbyterian Church, a strong member of the Torrance and Clear Lake community for decades, will once again have a fundraiser Bake Sale and BBQ that day from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. The Torrance General Store will also be holding a Community Social & Yard Sale on that same day (details below).

Thanks again to Sharon Cleverdon who spent many hours last year collecting membership dues. We continue to see high participation rates and many people paid their dues early or at the AGM – this saves countless hours following up in person. At the AGM last year **we increased the cost to \$40 per year**. This is the first increase to membership dues in many, many years, and will help support all of our programs – water quality testing, beaver management, marker buoy maintenance, liability insurance, membership records, contact lists and mailings, and donations to support groups deemed beneficial to property owners.

Please pay your memberships (**reminder – now \$40**) before the AGM by one of the three methods outlined below:

OPTION #1: E-TRANSFER (INTERAC EMAIL MONEY TRANSFER)

- Set up CLPOA as Recipient (membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca)
- No security Question/Answer--CLPOA's bank account is set up for "Auto Deposit"
- Your E-Transfer will identify to us that you are the sender
- CLPOA's bank will send you confirmation that your deposit has been received
- You may choose to add a message--payment is for a cottage address or family name(s)

OPTION #2: TD BRANCH to TD BRANCH TRANSFER (No Charge)

- CLPOA's TD Canada Trust information: Branch #1997, Account #0000667
- If you use Online Banking with TD, call Easy Line at 1-866-222-3456. Add CLPOA as a Personal Payee for the purpose of transferring money. (This is not the same as a Bill Payment—it is a Payee for transfer purposes only). You may then transfer \$40 from your TD account to CLPOA's TD account online or by telephone.
- IMPORTANT--Please email membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca to confirm your branch-to-branch transfer. This is the only way we can know that the deposit came from you.

OPTION #3: CHEQUE payable to Clear Lake Property Owners' Association
Address: CLPOA c/o Sharon Cleverdon, 1077 Clear Lake Rd., Torrance, ON P0C 1M0

Please also remember that “One paid membership = One Vote”. Membership is required to elect the Board of Directors and to vote on issues needing Association approval. The cottager's contact list is available only to paid members.

It is **an election year this year**, and we have room on the board for interested individuals. Please reach out to a current board member if you have any questions.

FIRE SEASON AND BURNING BYLAW UPDATE

With the very mild winter, please remember that fire season starts on April 1 and goes through until October 31 of each year.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes Open-Air Burning By-law has been updated. Some of the changes include:

- Daytime burning times are now defined and fall between the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
- A permit is required for any daytime burning;
- Maximum size of a fire is (1 metre x 1 metre);
- Special provisions have been included which would allow contractors to have a larger fire with the Fire Chief's approval;
- Burn barrels are now regulated, and must be in sound condition with a mesh screen; and,

- A requirement for available extinguishment, which consists of a minimum of nineteen litres of water within 5 metres of the fire.

“A review of the Open–Air Burning Bylaw was undertaken in order to simplify burning requirements for residents and to allow a seamless transition to an online burn–permit platform,” said Fire Chief, Ryan Murrell. Chief Murrell adds that “Daytime fires are still permitted within Muskoka Lakes; however, you must have a valid burning permit for the property where the fire is occurring.”

In Muskoka Lakes, burn permits are available through www.burnpermit.com. Contractors who wish to have a larger fire shall contact the Fire Department for further information on the application process.

To read the updated by–law, please visit www.muskokalakes.ca.

MUSKOKA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The MRA (Muskoka Ratepayers Association) is launching an Associate Membership program for lake associations. Any property owners who are also members of the MRA will credit \$20 towards the lake association's Associate Membership.

The MRA represents the local taxpayers interest in local government, property taxation, economic development, and environmental concerns. They regularly produce a newsletter, *Township Watch*, keeping members updated.

If you are a member of the MRA, please let us know!

BEAVER UPDATE

Last November and into early December, Bob Cleverdon and the trapper/dam–remover Donny Schell were able to remove some dams and drop the water levels significantly. At that point, they had to break for the winter cold. The ice–up didn't start for about another month, so the beavers were busy and the ice–out levels were high. Our outflow creek is flowing well at the road but there appears to be downstream blockage based on how much back property is flooded.

Three of the fifteen dams taken out were significant, each holding back 18 inches or so of water. These three were spread out between the top, middle, and bottom of the creek, with two of them downstream of where our outflow merges. The dismantling was staged and done over about three hours, so the release was monitored and gradual. Efforts will continue through the spring.

TREES DAMAGED ALONG CLEAR LAKE RD

On March 4, the road maintenance crews undertook some severe tree-cutting in the area between Clear Lake Rd and Highway 169. Although we've long had an understanding with Hydro One about the maintenance of that area, and have posted notices to respect the treed barrier (which is a multi-decade community project designed to protect Clear Lake Rd, reduce highway noise and create an aesthetic zone by the highway) the Township staff proceeded to make significant alterations to the area without consultation.

In the last fifty years, the Town has not removed trees near the road, but last month decided to eliminate about a quarter of the barrier. Unlike Hydro, the Township did not minimize the cutting or collaborate with the Association in selecting what trees to reduce. They ripped the entire zone and left the area looking dismal and adulterated. In our opinion, the Township completely disrespected the tree barrier. They did a significant amount of damage and destruction to the trees, so extensive that many of the remaining trees will not survive.

Despite pleas from our residents, the Township workers did not undertake to stop the cutting without intervention from Mike Silver and Ruth Nishikawa. Although it will take years for the damaged trees to recover, it could have been much worse. We are incredibly grateful to Councillor Nishikawa for immediately coming to the site to help stop the activity. On behalf of the Clear Lake Property Owners Association, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Councillor Nishikawa, who once again was an indispensable advocate for her constituents.

On May 27, 2024, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Torrance Community Center, the Association will meet with the Township Mayor Peter Kelly and the local councillors and Township CEO to present the grievance on behalf of our residents who pay high waterfront taxes and have the right to expect the Township to respect the tree barrier supported by the Association. Anyone who wants to attend the Association is welcome to do so.

FAMILY SAFETY DAY: APRIL 20, 2024

The Muskoka Lakes Fire Department will be hosting a Family Safety Day event at the Port Carling Arena on Saturday, April 20, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The goal of the event is to bring community partners, first responders, and organizations alike to a location that will allow for public engagement in a safe

setting. There is no cost to attend the event, but there will be a free BBQ Lunch. There will be participation by organizations such as Hydro One, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Muskoka EMS, CN Rail, and many more.

This is a great time to interact with emergency responders in a safe environment, see the equipment that responds in the event of an emergency, and hang out with Sparky, Band-Aid Beaver, and Smokey Bear.

TORRANCE GENERAL COMMUNITY SOCIAL & YARD SALE: JUNE 29, 2024

As mentioned above, the Torrance General is hosting a Community Yard Sale & Social on Saturday, June 29th. Things will get going at 9:00 AM and run until 4:00 PM (see the attached flyer). If you'd like to take part, you can book a table by scanning the QR code on the flyer. They will have tons of great things happening during the day, from live music to amazing food, awesome beverages and lots of stuff for the kids! They are located directly across the road from the Muskoka Beer Spa and Clear Lake Brewery. If you aren't walking over, there should be plenty of parking on East Bay Rd. Stop in for a good time!

MUSKOKA LAKES | TORRANCE

TORRANCE GENERAL
COMMUNITY
YARD SALE
— AND SOCIAL —

SATURDAY JUNE 29 9AM - 4PM

2642 Muskoka Lakes Rd #169, Torrance

Clear Your Clutter And Generate CASH! 10% Of Proceeds Go To Local Charity

\$2 Fresh Coffee **\$2** Hot Dogs **\$2** Off Peameal On A Bun

FREE Loot Bag For Kids Mock-Tail Bar

Try Our New Menus At Potbelly's & Streamliner Scan For Full Details And Register Your Yard Sale Table!

PRACTICALLY HIP: JULY 20, 2024

The Beer Spa has let us know that they have booked the Practically Hip to perform on July 20, 2024. It's always a good show, although it can be loud. Reach out to Greg for more details.

REGATTA: SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024

This August long weekend, the Regatta will be held at ??? The McClennans ???. There is minimal parking space, but lots of room in the water so please come by boat. As always, we are looking for volunteers (to prepare/cook/serve food, in the water helping with kids' games, and giving out 1st-2nd-3rd place tokens at the race finish and the prize table). As always, the day will kick off with a boat parade at 11:00 AM, so get those creative juices flowing!

FIREWORKS REMINDER

Please remember that the Township of Muskoka Lakes has updated the Regulation of Fireworks By-law. Fireworks are now only permitted on the following holidays between dusk and 11:00 PM:

- Victoria Day and the Saturday and Sunday of that same holiday weekend
- Canada Day and,
 - Where Canada Day falls on a Monday or Tuesday, the preceding (before) Saturday and Sunday
 - Where Canada Day falls on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, the proceeding (following) Friday and Saturday
- New Year's Eve/Day (dusk – 12:30 AM)

Fireworks being set off on these days are permitted between dusk and 11:00 PM except for New Year's Eve/Day where fireworks are permitted until 12:30 AM on New Year's Day.

BOAT RAMP: REMINDER – HOURS 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Please respect Boat Ramp hours. Tell your marina, visiting friends and renters that these hours must be recognized. It is a very small stretch of shoreline between cottagers enjoying their properties to either side and a narrow road to travel. Even though our ramp is no longer on private property but instead uses public access to the lake, the ramp was built by the Township on the condition these hours be followed. Ensure boat hulls are carefully washed down before entering the lake. Any bilge must have been emptied before trailering to the ramp. It's a boater's keen responsibility to prevent invasive species from entering Clear Lake.

Your CLPOA Board,

Ian McClennan, Lisa Pennycook, Mike Silver, Jeremy Silver, Ron Algate, Charlie Wilkins, Tom Skopek, Natale Catalano