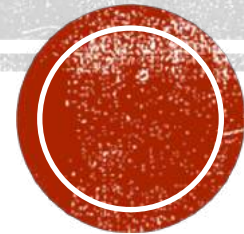


FIRE ON THE LAKE!

... AND THE LESSONS WE LEARNED

JEFF MCINNIS, CLCA member, Crystal Heights



A LITTLE ABOUT US..



- Been on the lake since 2006, annual CLCA members
- Rebuilt in 2020 and more or less live here now full time
- Have had many, may campfires and yes, we get our annual burn permits 😊
- Consider this our home and love and respect nature, our environment and value our neighbors and friends
- Had a bad fire in our outbuildings (shed & woodshed) on March 19th of this year that we were NOT PREPARED FOR





A FUN FAMILY ACTIVITY...

AND IN AN INSTANT, THIS....





**BECAME
THIS**



MULTIPLE POINTS OF FAILURE..

- Open fire, too close to shed, woodshed and cottage
- Super windy day (weather was all over the map) so sparks blowing in all directions
- Shed contained multiple (way too many in one spot) combustible items
 - Paint & thinner, gas, propane tanks, gas blower, chainsaws, pressure washer, etc.
- Most all water hoses and accessories were packed away in the shed for winter
- Water lines & hose bibs all shut off from inside for the winter and not marked
- Fire extinguishers were old, un-maintained and basically useless for a big fire



BUT WE GOT VERY VERY (VERY) LUCKY...

- Immediately called 911
- Put out the word on Facebook
- Neighbors happened to be up & came quickly by cars, sleds and UTV's
 - Shasky's, Hoods
- Lake was still frozen for faster access on sleds at UTC 's to help
 - Dettmen's, John & Rainey
- One hose in basement (by chance used to flood our lake rink), combined extinguishers (some worked, many did not), water buckets and shoveling snow at fire all helped to save the main cottage.
- Roads were in good shape so fire trucks from Galway made it in 25-30 mins

...so, we learned a few things to share



LESSONS LEARNED #1 – BE READY



- In near perfect conditions, assuming you are there when a fire breaks out, you will have to battle to put out a fire for at least 25-30 mins by yourself before fire trucks arrive
- Cell phones phones charged, landlines
- Know your fire route number & tell your family members where to find it. (CLCA fridge magnets available)
- Know where and how to shut off breakers on hydro panel
- Have a yearly “fire plan” review with family members



LESSONS LEARNED #2 - EXTINGUISHERS



- New “ABC” Fire extinguishers, placed in key positions around the cottage
- Accessible & marked
 - Out some outside of buildings
- 5lb and 10lb minimum (my opinion)
 - A small, “under counter” extinguisher might put out a large frozen pizza or small grease fire
- Temp range -50 to +49 Celsius
- Remember these need to be maintained. They need to be in the “green”
- Teach your family how to use the PASS Method.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT EXTINGUISHERS



10 lb

5 lb

2 lb

Stove

10-pound

- **Best for:** Garage or home workshop, where a fire might grow in size before being noticed.

5-pound

- **Best for:** Quick grab in the kitchen or laundry room.

2-pound

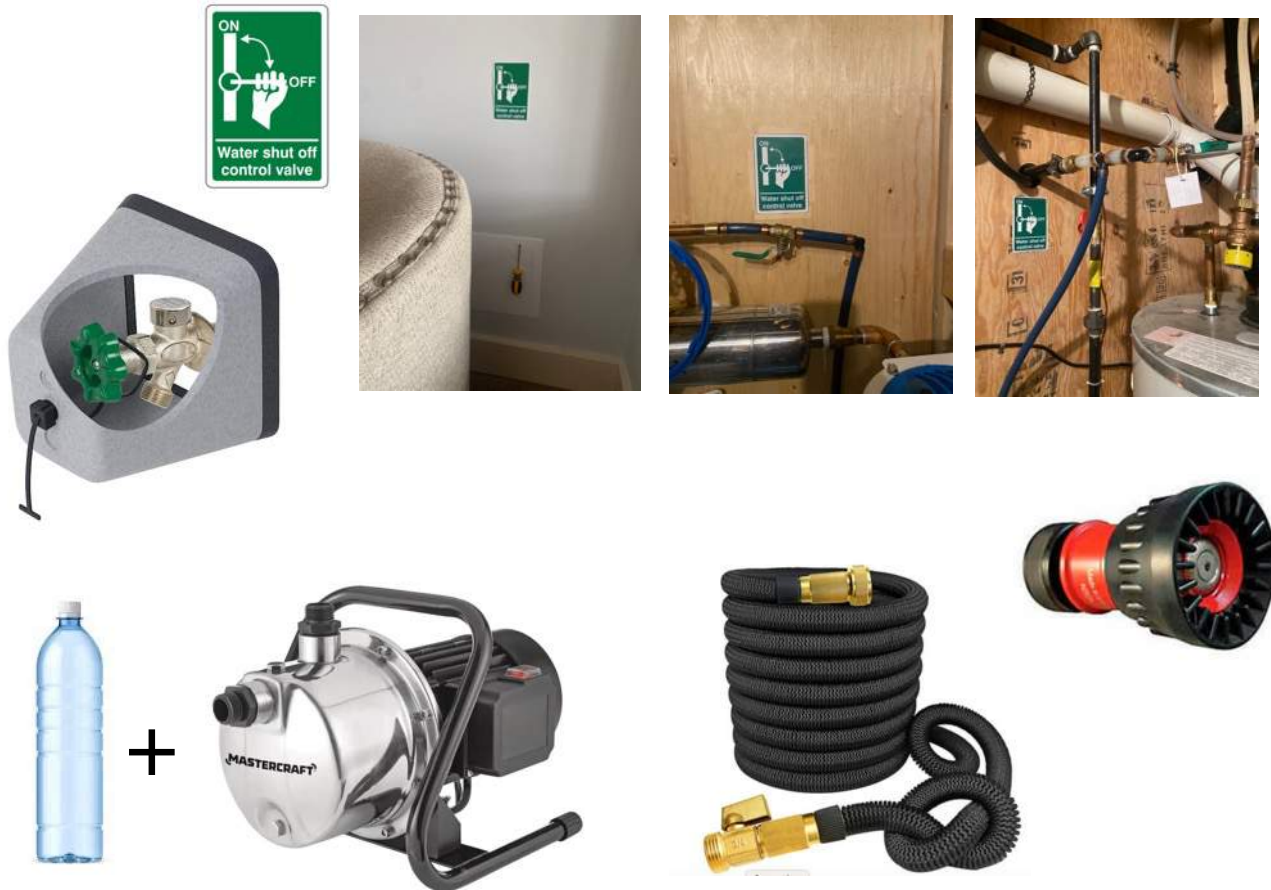
- **Best for:** Car

Stove-top

- **Best for:** Mounting on range hood over stove. (Do not use over deep fryers; released chemical can splash grease and spread flames.)



LESSONS LEARNED #3 – WINTER WATER



- It took extra time for neighbors to find the shut off valves, hose, etc. so built a dedicated emergency box
- Clearly mark shut off valves inside the cottage for winter
- Make/print a shut off valve map and pin in a central location like furnace room or where your water tank is
- Have hoses dedicated to emergency with good nozzles that will give you some pressure
- If possible, invest in gas fire hose system (Minden Equipment Rental) sells these for \$1k-\$1.5k/system.



LESSONS LEARNED #4

— STORING COMBUSTIBLE ITEMS



- Gas, oil, lighter fluid, lawn care products, and paints are just a few of the many hazardous solvents we stored in our shed, way to close to the cottage.
- We now store gas, propane, etc. in separate locations (outside), away from main cottage.
- BTW, propane tanks are very weather resilient and should never be stored indoors.
- Safely store gas powered tools in garage far from cottage and make sure they don't leak .
- Install F-E close to garage



LESSONS LEARNED #5

— BUILD AN EMERGENCY FIRE BOX KIT



Pack these into a storage box and place outside:

- 100” non kinking hose
- High pressure nozzle
- Min 10lb extinguisher
- Gloves
- Electric Pressure Pump will help
- Escape ladder near windows if your place is 2-story



LESSON'S LEARNED #6

— 2" GAS FIRE PREVENTION KIT



- 100 FT of 2" high pressure hose
- High pressure nozzle
- Will store at lake
- Gas powered
- Needs to be primed (2L Plastic Coke Bottle)
- Need a winter plan i.e. keep chain saw handy to make a hole in the ice
- Share with neighbors and practice how to use



AND FINALLY, THANKS!



- Neighbors & friends
- Amazing team from Trent Lakes Fire Rescue
 - This team needs on-going support
 - Funding & help recruiting
- Rebuild team:
 - Connell Homes
 - Austin Lumber
 - W&G Landscaping
 - Len Ashbridge
 - Trent Lakes Tree Service
 - Heritage Creations
 - Wyatt Electric





Saturday August 12, 2023

7 - 10pm

*Everyone knows Crystal Lake is home to some of the best talent in Ontario's cottage country so here's your opportunity to **show us what you've got!***

If you can sing or play an instrument or perform another special talent, then we want you!

Full stage, lights & sound system will be provided along with musical accompaniment (guitars) by Jeff & Anthony. (Practice sessions available on request)

This event is open to the whole lake and the show starts at 7pm sharp. 10-minute spots are limited to all Crystal Lakers 6 & up.

If interested in participating, please direct message Mary-Beth Jones or Danise Worona on Facebook or email crystallakesgottalent@gmail.com

There will be an entrance fee of \$5/act and cash & food donations are encouraged with all proceeds going to support the Kinmount Food Bank

*Hosted by the McInnis & Worona Families at the McInnis Cottage
(North side of lake just before Ironmine Bay)*

