



Spring Newsletter 2021

Message from the President ...

In the category of "a piercing glimpse of the obvious", it's been a strange year. I heard someone state recently that if we had all predicted in 2015 where we would be in 5 or 6 years, we would all have been wrong.

In many cases, it's been a difficult and frustrating year, worse for some than others. With that commonality amongst us all, let's all remember to help one another out and treat each other well.

As the CLCA, we've tried, as a collective to continue to move forward, working through the lens of what is in the best interest of our community. There's not a meeting I come away from where I am not humbled by the dedication and effort put in by your CLCA volunteer board. Thank you x10 to all of them.

This year's AGM will be held virtually again for obvious reasons and there is information on that enclosed. I encourage you all to attend. Also, this year is an election year and I encourage you to become involved – give it some thought.

There's obviously some uncertainty going into summer 2021 but looking forward to it and hoping to start to see things return to normal.....whatever 'normal' will look like.

We have plans underway for a few events including a Canada Day event. It was such a good time last year so we are looking to do it again. Stay tuned to our Facebook site and website for more details. Get your flags and red and white ready!

Take good care, stay safe and have a phenomenal summer.

John Hubbard

President
Crystal Lake Community Association

Crystal Lake Community Association (CLCA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Due to current circumstances, we are unable to hold our AGM in person. As a result, we will be holding it virtually again this year via Zoom. The link will be available on our Facebook site and will be shared by email closer to the meeting date. Anyone is most welcome to attend but just a reminder that only CLCA members are able to vote ([click here to join or renew!](#)).

Agenda items to include:

- Discussion of CLCA Business
- CLCA Election

This year is an election year and all positions are open for nomination. If you are interested in putting your name forward please contact [Secretary, Sharon Brickman](#), at least 2 weeks in advance of the AGM (by May 26, 2021).

Executive Committee

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary

Board of Directors

5 Board of Director Positions

Canada Day Boat Float!!!



**Due to the
overwhelming
success of our
Canada Day flotilla,
we will be holding it
again this year on
Thursday, July 1st.**

**Stay tuned for
more details!!!**



Information on COVID-19

As information related to COVID-19 is constantly changing, here are some useful links you may want to check out to stay informed and up to date including the CLCA Facebook page. Stay safe everyone!

- [CLCA Facebook Page](#)
- [Government of Canada Website](#)
- [Province of Ontario website](#)
- [Municipality of Trent Lakes website](#)



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Water Levels

Water levels are important to most if not all of us on Crystal Lake. The CEWF, one of the organizations that the CLCA supports is in regular contact with the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) water management team.

The CEWF has recently reported that total precipitation for this past winter was 25% less than normal values followed by 25%-50% less than normal amounts of precipitation in March. As you may have noticed, the lake level is quite low. However, we can expect the current lake levels to gradually rise during the month of May, reaching seasonal averages heading into summer. Hoping for some rain!

We encourage you all to visit the CEWF website at www.cewf.ca for updated information throughout the year.

For more information and updates from CEWF, visit our [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#).

Buoys/Markers

As you know we have a number of buoys around Crystal Lake to mark some of the rocks and shoals. We have a team of volunteers that work hard every year to maintain these buoys (sincere thank you to those that take care of this).

Given the current circumstances, it has not been possible to get all the buoys prepped and out on the lake. We hope to have them out soon but in the meantime when out in your boat please use extra caution.



Over the course of the season, if you happen to notice that a buoy has become loose, damaged or you find one floating, please leave it on your dock or shore plainly visible and one of the volunteers will pick it up and place it back out as soon as they can.

Short-Term Rentals

As you know, the Municipality of Trent Lakes has been exploring the introduction of a short-term rental licensing program.

We recognize that this is an important issue to many of you and that there will be a range of perspectives on the matter. We thank those of you who have provided comments to date by email, through our Facebook site as well as in conversation with us. We will continue to take forward any of the feedback you provide to us. We feel such a proposal requires public consultation and should be guided and informed by all property owners and their perspectives.

At this time, the Municipality of Trent Lakes has deferred work on this until the Fall of 2021. We will continue to keep you up to date.

We are creating some resources that will be made available to all of you including a pamphlet for those renting your property with information on the lake and area as well as guide to successful short-term rentals.

For more information please visit our [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#).

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Our Loons

The loons are back on the lake and they will be getting ready to mate and nest. A recent study has shown that loon populations are declining, with major causes being loss of habitat and water levels. There are a few simple things we can all do to protect our loons including:

- ✓ Watch your wake, the lake levels are generally high during mating and nesting season, one wave can flood a nest and destroy the eggs, meaning the pair will have no chicks for that year. Please avoid activities that cause large wakes near shore (May and June).
- ✓ Respect their space. If you see a nest, stay clear, don't try to get close to adults or chicks.
- ✓ Try and leave shorelines as natural as possible, particularly if you have property in small bays/inlets frequented by loons.



OPP Patrol

The OPP patrol both our lake and roads during the day and night. Know and follow the rules of the lake and road. For more information on safe boating visit the [Transport Canada](#) website.



What does the CLCA do?

CLCA focuses on and represents the interests of Crystal Lake waterfront property and area residents.



- ✓ We keep the welcome signs and various planters looking beautiful.
- ✓ We offer discount cards for use at local businesses for CLCA members.
- ✓ We support Crystal Lake events such as the Canada Day Family Event.
- ✓ We purchase and maintain buoys to mark some of the rocks and shoals on Crystal Lake.
- ✓ We maintain a website and Facebook page to keep us informed, share events, photos and other interesting stuff!
- ✓ We make donations to and support other local volunteer organizations.
- ✓ We promote and support local businesses and events.

CLCA acts as a liaison and represents waterfront and area residents on various important matters that arise in the community that may impact us.

- ✓ We liaise with the Municipality of Trent Lakes Council and staff regarding waste management, roadway maintenance, septic inspection program and environmental and development concerns.
- ✓ We support the Crystal Lake Steward who takes water samples to be tested by the Ministry of the Environment to monitor the water quality of the lake for clarity, phosphorus levels and invasive species (i.e. zebra mussels).

We also maintain membership with various associations so we can provide a united voice on behalf of our members on important matters including:

- ✓ Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF):
 - Work to implement equitable water management policy for the Trent-Severn Waterway taking all those affected into account.
 - Water levels are important to us on Crystal Lake and we encourage you to visit the [CEWF's website](#) for more information.
- ✓ Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA):
 - A non-profit, voluntary organization that represents over 500 Ontario cottage associations at the provincial level, dedicated to supporting the interests of Ontario's waterfront property owners.
 - FOCA is an active supporter of:
 - Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) which is a coalition of waterfront associations across Ontario working to achieve equity in waterfront property taxation; and
 - Coalition After Property Tax Reform (CAPTR) which is an alliance of over 700 ratepayer organizations striving to bring equity and stability to residential property tax system.

Meet the CLCA

Executive Committee

President - John Hubbard
Vice President - Christine Brickman
Secretary - Sharon Brickman
Treasurer - Carol Ing
Membership - Sarah Petrik

Board Members

John Hubbard (Chair)
Michael Leblanc
Gary Round
Monique Lloyd
Shannon Jonas*

*interim member

IDEAS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you interested in helping out with an event or initiative? Do you have great ideas to share? Do you have questions to ask or comments to offer? If so, we would love to hear from you!!

Please send us a note at crystallakecommunityassoc@gmail.com.

Also, if you have an interest in helping out with any of our upcoming events or are willing to help out with canvassing for membership (chatting with your neighbours or taking on a section of the lake) please let us know!



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Change of Name

The CLCA has changed its name from the Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association to the Crystal Lake Community Association. The intention was to create a more inclusive association – one that is for both cottagers and area residents. Our mandate and passion for Crystal Lake remains the same!!



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Crystal Lake Library

We have been working on a new project that will be coming to Crystal Lake soon!

We are designing and building the Crystal Lake Book Exchange Library. It will be located at White's Beach.

Stay tuned for more details!



Big Red Chair

We have some exciting news!

Thanks to a generous donation from Nevil Knupp and Abby Langdown, we will be constructing a chair to be placed at White's Beach.

Hoping to have the chair in place this summer!

Stay tuned and get your cameras ready!



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Crystal Lake Map

We are working on an updated version to reflect recent address and road changes in our area.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can get one for yourself!



Lake Steward

We wanted to say a big Thank You to Michael Olejnik for being our Lake Steward for the last number of years. Michael was responsible for water quality testing and readings, attending seminars on behalf of CLCA and sharing that information with all of us. Thanks again!

If anyone would be interested in taking over this important role, please let us know. We would be happy to speak with you about what the role entails. Please contact [John Hubbard](#) for more information.

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Visit the CLCA Website & Facebook Page (Crystal CLCA)!!

Both our **website** and **Facebook Page** (which has grown to over 1000 members!!) are great sources of information on community events and important issues such as the current COVID-19 emergency, water levels, waste management as well as other matters. You can also find photos, things lost and found, items for sale and other topics of interest.



Buy or Sell?

Check out the Crystal Lake, Galway and Kinmount Area [Buy and Sell Facebook Page!](#)

Off Road Vehicles

Off road vehicles (ORV) continue to enjoy increasing interest and there are miles of wonderful trails to explore in the area. Just a few reminders as you set out:

- Remember that speed limits are reduced for ATVs on area roads
- Ensure that you adhere to all rules of the roads including age limits, licensing, insurance, safety equipment etc.
- Respect the environment and private lands (stay on trails, stay away from water courses and wetlands)
- Be respectful of neighbours and neighbourhoods - be mindful of dust, noise and speed
- Consider supporting your local ATV association and become a member in order to enjoy full use of the trails
- Have fun!!!

Mattress Collection

There are a few events planned this year where residents will have the opportunity to dispose of mattresses. The cost is \$20 per mattress.

Visit the [Municipality of Trent Lakes](#) for more details on this.

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Friendly Reminders

- ✓ Watch your boat wake! Be considerate of docks, watercraft, and shorelines.
- ✓ We share the lake and roads with many of nature's creatures both big and small. Please respect all forms of wildlife.
- ✓ Always be respectful of your neighbours (e.g. off road vehicles, music, fireworks, lighting, pets etc.).
- ✓ Always use caution when having any type of fire. See the rules & regulations at <http://www.trentlakes.ca/services/fire-rescue/>
- ✓ Be Bear Wise! Check out www.bears.mnr.gov.on.ca
- ✓ Know your 911 information in case of emergency. Please ensure that your 911 number is visible and in good shape. Remove all old Crystal Lake numbers to avoid confusion.
- ✓ Do you rent your property? Some things to consider include:
 - ✓ Adequate parking for guests (i.e. no parking on private or municipal roads)
 - ✓ Advertise only for the number of bedrooms your septic tank permits.
 - ✓ Be available 24 hours a day for renters or make arrangements for someone else to be.
 - ✓ Ensure guests are aware of by-laws and laws (i.e. noise, fireworks, boating).

Website Traffic

We just wanted to share some interesting information about web traffic on our CLCA website. During the past year (March 2020 to February 2021), the CLCA website has seen an increase in traffic. The website recorded an average of 77,400+ hits/month. There were approximately 10,700 visits/month (compared to 4,500/month last year), and 42,500 pages viewed/month (compared to 8,200/month last year) – so the CLCA internet "presence" continues at a very high rate!

You may also be interested that Google Search has recorded approximately 109,000+ impressions for www.crystallakecottagers.ca over the past year (compared to 103,000 last year). An impression is recorded when 'www.crystallakecottagers.ca' appears in a Google search result for a user, regardless of what they searched for. (This is a result of our regular website submittals to major search engines).

As of January 1, 2019, we developed a new website tracking system for CLCA web site using Google Analytics. Among other things, this allows us to see the individual selected page visits and also 'click-through' events. This is a helpful way for us to see what is our most popular pages are on the web site.

Are You Interested in Advertising?

Contact us for more details at crystallakecommunityassoc@gmail.com

Helpful Phone Numbers

Emergency Numbers

Fire, Police, Ambulance Emergency – 911
 Marine & Air Search and Rescue – 1-800-267-7270
 Poison Information Centre – 1-800-268-9017
 Kids Help Phone – 1-800-668-6868



Non-Emergency Numbers

Police – 1-888-310-1122
 Tele-Health Ontario – 1-866-797-0000
 Ambulance (Non-Emergency) – 705-286-2424
 Ministry of Natural Resources (Minden) – 705-286-1521 or 1-800-667-1940
 Hydro One – 1-888-664-9376 For Outages Call 1-800-434-1235
 Bell Canada – 416-310-2355 or 1-800-668-6878
 Municipality of Trent Lakes – 705-738-3800 or 1-800-374-4009

(NEW* After-Hours By-Law Enforcement – Call Trent Lakes and enter extension 300)



Cottage Dreams is a unique program that offers recent cancer survivors and their families the opportunity to spend a week at a donated, private cottage after treatment to celebrate recovery.



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Donations to Local Foodbank

The Kinmount Foodbank has seen an increase in families in need as a result of loss of income or other reasons due to COVID-19.

The Foodbank is run by volunteers and relies on donations to purchase food, hygiene products and household items.

To do our part to support our local community during this difficult time, we have donated over \$1,000 in food and other household products (cleaning supplies) to the Kinmount Foodbank.



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Become a Member of the Crystal Lake Community Association

The Crystal Lake Community Association represents you and your interests as a property owner. We represent you with our local council, other associations and other government agencies. It is important that we have a strong association represented by all property owners so when we speak on your behalf we are able to say that we represent the majority of all Crystal Lake residents.

We know that your property is a major investment, so why not join the CLCA so we can help protect that investment and your interests.

Membership is only \$20 annually per property. For those who are interested we are now offering the option for you to pay your membership fee for up to 5 years at a time.

We encourage all residents to join for a strong association. There are 3 ways that you can join the CLCA.

1. Online by credit card or PayPal at www.crystallakecottagers.ca
2. Online by e-Transfer to crystallakecommunityassoc@gmail.com
3. By mail – Complete the Membership Form below and send it along with a \$20 cheque payable to the CLCA. Please contact [Carol Ing](#) for mailing instructions.



If you have any questions at all, we would be pleased to answer them. You can contact us by visiting our website at: www.crystallakecottagers.ca/contact.html



Crystal Lake Community Association **Membership Form**



Cottager/Property Owner Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Home Phone: _____

Cottage Address: _____

Cottage Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would prefer to receive mailings by regular mail

Option # 1

I wish to pay my CLCA 202_ Membership (\$20)

Option # 2

I wish to pay my CLCA Membership fee for the next ____ years (up to 5 years).

Enclosed is my payment of \$ ____ (\$20 x up to 5 years).