



Spring Newsletter 2012

Message from the President ...

The Crystal Lake Cottager's Association Board of Directors & Executive Committee have been busy since elected at the June 2011 Annual General Meeting. We held three meetings last summer and have met via teleconference over the winter. Here are some of the things we have been working on.

- Purchased Liability & Directors Insurance for the CLCA.
- Moved some money into interest bearing G.I.C.'s from non-interest account
- We formalized some things including:
 - Brought our Incorporation and income tax documents up-to-date
 - Decided to have our financial statements independently reviewed & verified
 - Decided to hand out financial statements at the next AGM for discussion
 - Decided to have all actions of the Executive Committee & Board of Directors approved at the AGM
 - Format of AGM to change with CLCA business upfront followed by guest speakers
 - Bank's signing officers were changed to two current Executive Committee members
- Some of our projects include:
 - Improvements to the bulletin boards at the dump
 - Beautification Project
 - As part of the Beautification Project, we are working to enhance the entrances to our lake (Crystal Lake Road, Galway Road and Clear Bay Road). We have purchased and placed several flower boxes at the entrances. We are also looking to have three signs made, similar in design to the Kinmount sign. These signs will have rock foundations that will be generously donated by Dudman Construction.
 - Improve markers on Gull Island
 - Membership Development
 - Buoy's in and out
 - Liaison's with GARAI, FOCA, CEWF and the Kinmount Gazette
 - Environmental (includes water samples, loon surveys, wildlife inventory and water levels)
 - Creation of an information flyer on CLCA as some of you may have seen last summer to let you know about us.
 - As one of CLCA's key mandates to keep our lake clean, we have been actively responding to inquiries from the Township and others in regard to dealing with old/poor septic tanks that allow waste to get into our lake.
 - Updates to our website (i.e. Good Septic Tank Practices)
 - We published an article in the Kinmount Gazette about the CLCA to promote the Association.
 - Working with our OPP on issues some of which include them better identifying themselves when approaching other boats at night, ensuring they are not bringing zebra mussels from other lakes, their criterion for the time spent on our lake and the availability of conviction statistics.

How's that for our first year on the job! We hope to see you all at the AGM in June.

Barry Abelson
President of the Board and Executive Committee

Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association (CLCA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday June 3rd, 2012 at 10:00am @ Galway Hall

At the upcoming AGM there will be:

- A discussion of CLCA business
- A message from Mayor Janet Clarkson will be given on changes at the Landfill Site on Crystal Lake Road as well as on septic tank inspections.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Kawartha Conservation Authority will speak about permitting.

We hope to see you all there.

The CLCA Website www.crystallakecottagers.ca

Check out the CLCA Website where you can:

- Get in touch with us
- See what the CLCA is up to
- Find information on issues that may concern you as a cottager (i.e. water levels)
- Join the online discussion forum
- Browse through or post on the buy/sell & lost/found sections
- Check out the Crystal Lake webcam
- Check out some great photos of your fellow cottagers
- Become a member of the CLCA

Meet the CLCA

Executive Committee

- **President**
Barry Abelson
- **Vice President**
Christine Brickman
- **Secretary**
Sharon Brickman
- **Treasurer**
Don Langlois
- **Membership**
Sarah Petrik

Board Members

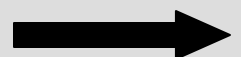
- Barry Abelson (Chair)
- Carl Brickman
- John Hubbard
- Michael Leblanc

We would love to hear from you. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share with us, please visit the "Contact" section of the CLCA website at:

www.crystallakecottagers.ca/contact.html

**Become a New Member of the Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association
or Renew your Existing Membership**

See the Orange Insert Inside



What does the CLCA do?

CLCA focuses on the interests of Crystal Lake cottagers – such as water quality, the environment, community events and liaison with other associations and the Township.

- We provide financial support and oversight for the orange buoys to mark some of the rocks and shoals as well as maintain the flashing lights on Gull Island
- We have a lake Steward who takes water samples to have tested by MOE to monitor the water quality of the lake for clarity, phosphorus levels and invader species (i.e. zebra mussels)
- We maintain a website to keep cottagers informed
- We make donation(s) to our local volunteer organizations
- We maintain membership with various associations to provide a united voice for Crystal Lake including:
 - ✓ Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA):
 - a non-profit, voluntary organization that represents over 500 Ontario cottage associations that is dedicated to supporting the interests of Ontario's waterfront property owners.
 - ✓ Galway and Area Ratepayers Association Incorporated (GARAI):
 - a community based organization, dedicated to working with all associations, residents, businesses, local township, and all levels of government both federally and provincially to find solutions to issues that are common among property owners in our area.
 - A strong and active Environment Committee who coordinate the Turtle Crossing & Adopt-A-Road Programs
 - ✓ 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 on Crystal Lake

The CLCA recognizes that water levels are an important topic.

Crystal Lake is a reservoir lake for the Trent Canal system, which means that water from our lake is used to maintain water in the Trent Canal lakes/lock systems. The job of managing lake levels on reservoir lakes falls to Trent Canal staff who work for Parks Canada.

Managing water levels throughout reservoir lakes and Canal system is complex and consideration is given to many things in addition to water level requirements of the Canal system such as; fish spawning/habitat, wildlife nesting, wetland preservation, water lines freezing, waterfront infrastructure (docks/boathouses), navigation (shoals, underpasses) and hydro generation facilities.

Trent staff closely monitor the amount of moisture available for the spring runoff which enables them to predict the rate that the lakes will fill at. Trent staff use this information to determine when and how many logs they put into the dams on reservoir lakes in order to ensure that the lakes are full for the navigation season. During the navigation season, Trent staff incrementally remove logs from the reservoir lakes to supply water to the Canal system.

There has been a group formed which provides a voice for all of the reservoir lakes, called the Coalition for Equitable Water Flows www.cewf.ca. CLCA is a member of this group.

In order to ensure that we speak with "one voice" to CEWF and Trent Canal staff we have set-up an account on the CLCA forum named "CLCA Directors". We would ask that as an initial point of contact you provide questions and comments to this account.

What is the CLCA up to?

Beautification Project

- We want Crystal Lake to be welcoming and beautiful. The CLCA has work underway to enhance the entrances at Crystal Lake Road and Hwy 121, Galway Road and Hwy 121 as well as at Galway Road and Clear Bay Road.
- We have received some generous donations from GARAI and Dudman Construction to help with this project.
- The landscaping designs will be similar to what you see in Kinmount, Bobcaygeon and Buckhorn.
- As a part of this project you may also have noticed that some barrels with flowers were placed on both Crystal Lake and Galway Road. We hope you enjoy them!

Improving the Markers on Gull Island

- There is a small rocky island in the middle of the lake that many know as "Gull Island". We will be adding some additional buoys to better mark this rocky shoal.

Send us Your Pictures



We have great photos up on the CLCA website but we would love to get more from you. Visit our CLCA forum and post your pictures under the "CLCA Pictures" section.

Important Dates

May 2012

- Starting May 19th Kinmount Artisans Marketplace "Welcome Back Friends" Event. Hours are 9am -2pm. <http://kinmountfarmersmarket.ca/>
- Monday May 21st Victoria Day

June 2012

- June 3rd, 2012 – CLCA AGM at Galway Hall @ 10:00am
- Saturday June 30th – Ice Cream Float hosted by the CLCA – check out our website for more details.

July 2012

- Sunday July 1st is Canada Day
- Saturday July 7 Strawberry Supper @the Galway Hall from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.
- Saturday July 14th Irondale Wild Game Dinner
- Rock Bass Derby at the Crystal Lake Marina

August 2012

- Monday August 6th Civic Holiday
- Saturday August 4th –Movie Night at Knupp's Cottage

September 2012

- Monday September 3rd Labour Day
- Kinmount Fair Labour Day Weekend

October 2012

- Monday October 8th Thanksgiving

November 2012

- Saturday November 3rd Annual Turkey Dinner 4:30-7pm

Check out www.kinmount.ca/events for more events.



Crystal Lake Big Rink Skating Party

A great big thank you to the Knupp family and friends for once again hosting the annual Skating Party over the Family Day Weekend. It was a great success with over 200 people in attendance. For those of you who missed it, make sure to mark it in your calendar for next year!

OPP Patrol

As you may have noticed, the OPP patrol our lake and roads during the day and night. Know the rules of the lake and road!



Friendly Reminders

1. We share the lake with many of nature's creatures both big and small (see our wildlife inventory posted on our website). Please respect all forms of wildlife.
2. We share the roads with many animals so please use caution and slow down.
3. Always use caution when having any type of fire. See the GCH rules and regulations at www.galwaycavendishharvey.ca
4. Be Bear Wise! See what you can do at bears.mnr.gov.on.ca
5. Know your 911 information in case on an emergency. Please ensure that your 911 number is visible and in good shape. Please remove all old Crystal Lake numbers to avoid confusion.
6. Watch your boat wake! Be considerate of cottagers' docks, water craft, and shorelines. Know the rules. Go 'dead slow' in potential loon nesting areas or avoid these areas completely.
7. Get involved! Join the Ontario Turtle Tally or Adopt-A-Pond. For more info, go to www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond/Turtle
8. If you are a dog owner, you may want to familiarize yourself with the contents of the GCH by-law website at <http://www.galwaycavendishharvey.ca/DepartmentsCommittees/AnimalControl/tabid/86/Default.aspx>

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
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

Check out the CLCA website for more helpful numbers.

Be Boat Wise

CLCA is offering, through the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, a boating seminar for participants to obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card as legally required by Transport Canada. Topics include: mandatory boating equipment, collision regulations, marine rules of the road, anchoring, docking, the Canadian Aids to navigation System etc.

DATE/TIME: Sunday June 17, 2012 9:30-3:30pm (Instruction)
Sunday June 24, 2012 9:30-11:30am (Exam)

LOCATION: GALWAY HALL

COST: \$65.00 per participant (includes Course Material)

REGISTRATION: To register or if you have any questions please e-mail Don Langlois at lnglois@rogers.com. Please include the full name of all participants and your telephone number. Please register by June 1st. A minimum of 10 participants is required to run the course.



Septic Tanks

Properly functioning cottage septic systems are a very important consideration in ensuring lake and general environmental health.



As members of our lake community, it is strongly recommended that each one of us has a good understanding of how our septic system works and how to take care of it in order to ensure that it functions properly for decades.

The Peterborough Health Unit has a wonderful guide entitled "Your Septic System Friend or Foe?". It is 12 short pages and takes about 10 minutes to read. It covers important topics such as:

- How your system works
- Identifying potential system problems
- How often to pump your system
- Tips for what not to put down your drain
- Landscaping around your system
- Legal requirements

To read or print the guide visit the Peterborough County-City Health Unit's website at:
<http://pcchu.peterborough.on.ca/index.html>

Click the "Programs" tab, then the "Environmental Health" tab, then the "Sewage" tab, in the box on the left click the "Care and Feeding of Your Septic System" tab.

In addition, to the recommendations in the Peterborough guide, many other sewage related websites recommended that property owners that rely on septic systems consider using non-phosphorous products (such as dish and laundry detergents) particularly in lake or river environments.

Composting at the Cottage

We have been successfully composting all our kitchen green waste at the cottage for the past 30+ years and to date have not had an issues with our compost bin attracting bears or rodents such as skunks and/or racoons.

By doing some web-searching and reading, it seems that the secret to successful composting is simply keeping your compost bin healthy, working and active. It is very important that you only put organic materials into your compost bin, never add meat, fish, bones, fatty foods, dairy products or pet waste to your compost bin.

Peterborough Green-up is a wonderful source of information and they have created an entire series of fact sheets dedicated to composting:

- The Basics of Composting
- Preventing Compost Odours
- Pest Proofing your Compost Bin
- Composting Year-round
- Compost Troubleshooting
- Using Compost
- What to Compost
- Vermicomposting (work composting)



For further information and to print copies of these fact sheets please visit the Peterborough Green-up website at:
<http://greenup.on.ca/index.php>

The fact sheets are found under the tab entitled "Store and Resources", then click on "Environmental Resources" tab

Happy Composting!!!!

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Handing Down the Cottage

Preserving the cottage for your family requires you to consider your family's wishes as well as tax, legal and funding issues.

To learn how you can deal with these, register for an informative seminar in your community at www.geoffreyparker.ca or call 416-346-3806.

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Become a Member of the Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association

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

We know that your cottage 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 cottage and that contribution helps us make Crystal Lake the best it can be. We encourage all cottagers to join for a strong association.

There are 3 ways that you can join the CLCA.

1. Online at www.crystallakecottagers.ca
2. By mail – Complete the Membership Form below and send it along with a \$20 cheque payable to the CLCA to:

Don Langlois c/o CLCA
31 Mapledawn Road
Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2V7

3. In Person – At the Annual General Meeting held on June 3, 2012. Bring along the completed form below.

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

JOIN TODAY!!



Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association 2012 Membership

Cottager Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cottage Address: _____

Cottage Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ I would prefer to receive mailings by e-mail

Payment Type: Cheque Cash