

## CRYSTAL LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

### Spring Newsletter 2010

**INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Welcome to the start of another year on Crystal Lake. Spring is an exciting time around the Lake as many cottagers begin to make the journey back to Crystal Lake. Easter weekend was amazing weather-wise, and the lake ice was gone by March 31<sup>st</sup>. I hope that every Crystal Lake cottager can enjoy good times here at the Lake this year.

Help make your Association relevant and its voice strong. Please come to our Annual General Meeting at the Galway Hall on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Note that this is **not** an election year so come and share your views and concerns.

**CRYSTAL LAKE DAM/ WATER LEVELS:** Crystal Lake is a reservoir lake for the Trent-Severn Waterway. Our lake levels are controlled by the TSW at the dam using stop logs. New logs are in place this year which should mean little to no leakage. A monitoring station is also to be installed at the dam.

There are many concerns arising from our fluctuating water levels. Dave Ness, a coordinator for the TSW has agreed to speak at our AGM in June. Dave will be first on the Agenda. Come and hear what he has to say and how the TSW manages our water levels.

**911 SIGNAGE:** Every cottage should have a 911 sign. Please make sure it is in good shape after the winter. Signs should be perpendicular to the road so that emergency services can find them easily. Contact the GCH Township Office if there is a problem with the 911 sign on your property.

**GCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2010:** On Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010, there will be a municipal election for Galway/Cavendish/Harvey. Candidates have until September 10<sup>th</sup> to file their papers. Mail-in ballots will happen once again this election. Your Association will follow the candidates closely since those elected spend your tax dollars. There is to be an all-candidates meeting on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Galway Hall.

**ADOPT-A-ROAD :** This is an initiative sponsored by the County of Peterborough and supported by your township. Adopt-A-Road promotes keeping our roadways free of litter, garbage, and debris. Over 40 people take part in this program within our area but every cottager should be involved. Take a run, walk, stroll, or hike along any of our cottage roads and bring a bag or backpack to collect any litter. Remember, "Many hands make light work."

A huge thank-you goes out to Carl Brickman on this endeavor. Carl is the coordinator of the Adopt-A-Road for GARAI and he reports to the County of Peterborough.

**GARAI:** The Galway and Area Ratepayers' Association Incorporated act for the betterment of our area. Our Association is an active member of this group. Four other lake associations are represented as well- Back Bay, Fortesque, Salmon, and White.

GARAI monitors municipal affairs such as the official plan, budget, capital projects, and issues directly related to this area.

GARAI also has an environmental committee. This group is responsible for the turtle signs. It also tracks the water quality monitoring being done on the four lakes within our area.

**BUOYS/ MARKERS FOR ROCK SHOALS:** For many years, your Association has purchased orange buoys that are placed by dedicated volunteers to mark where some of the rock shoals are located on Crystal Lake. This is done as a courtesy to not only our cottagers but for our visitors as well. It should be noted that not **all** rock shoals are marked with the buoys. Therefore, it is wise to exercise caution while operating your boat in unfamiliar waters or in one of our many bays. Have a happy and safe boating season!

**BATS:** The mine adit near the Crystal Lake Dam has been home for many years to as many as five of the eight species of bats that are found in Ontario. The mine adit at the dam on Crystal Lake has been monitored over the last couple of seasons for white nose syndrome - a very devastating disease that is killing tens of thousands of bats in the Northern States. It has now been discovered in Ontario and one of the sites is the Crystal Lake mine.

While white nose syndrome is not thought to be a human health issue, it is unknown exactly how it spreads. Some caves have been visited by thousands of people and no illnesses have been reported. However, people are being asked to stay out of caves to reduce the possibility of transferring the disease.

This is a major blow to Ontario's biodiversity as bats are an extremely important link in our environment. Among other things, bats are a major source of insect control. Below is a link to an MNR page on the subject.

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/278166.html> (thanks to Sharon Brickman for the info for this article)

**WILDLIFE INVENTORY:** This January, a few volunteers have been making lists of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and any other creature in and around Crystal Lake. The findings so far include observations around birdfeeders as well as taking note of activities as the cottage roads are being travelled. To date, about fifty different species have been seen or heard. This ever-growing list will be shared and briefly discussed at our AGM in June.

**CREEL COUNT:** Similar to the Wildlife Inventory, making note of the fish caught in Crystal Lake is also valuable. No, this is not an attempt to gain fishing secrets nor favourite fishing holes on our Lake. It is merely an attempt to monitor the changes to our fish species.

I'll give an example. Last August 27<sup>th</sup> (2009), I took our neighbour's son out fishing. In less than two hours and only fishing at two locations, he caught **six** different species of fish- walleye, small-mouth bass, large-mouth bass, rock bass, perch, and black crappie.

To put this in perspective, 50 years ago (when I was a kid fishing), only two of these species existed in Crystal Lake- small-mouth bass and perch. Sunfish (blue-gills) were very common 50 years ago but rarely seen or caught today. Again, please commit to take part in this tally.

**GCH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey have established an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) made up of seven volunteer members in total from across the Township and includes one council member Peter Franzen and a representative from Kawartha Region Conservation Authority. The committee's initial focus areas are as follows:-

Waste Management – Reduce, Re-use, Recycle -  
Develop/promote and foster environmental awareness with local ratepayer/cottage groups -  
Create and leverage website for sharing information and awareness

(<http://galwaycavendishharveyeac.wordpress.com>) The first public event that the committee participated in was Heritage Day on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, held at Buckhorn Community Centre. EAC shared a booth along with Peterborough County – Environmental Services. We had a raffle and lots of information on waste diversion solutions available to ratepayers to reduce their carbon footprint. The committee has partnered with local Environmental organizations and will be coming out to local ratepayer and cottage associations during the Spring/Summer season as part of our awareness program. Our partners are Peterborough Green-up & Lakeland Alliance and Peterborough County – Environmental Services.

We will be attending the Galway and Area Ratepayers Association Inc (GARAI) & Crystal Lake Cottagers Association (CLCA) meeting in the summer, and we look forward to meeting everyone. It is encouraging that both GARAI & CLCA are active on environmental issues. We all have a responsibility when it comes to the environment. We hope that through our committee's efforts and with the community's support, we can make a difference for a sustainable environment across the Township.

Chair- Peter Raymond  
Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey -  
Environmental Advisory Committee.

Visit our website for more info:

<http://galwaycavendishharveyeac.wordpress.com>

**BURN PERMITS REQUIRED:** The following is our condensed version of By-Law #B2004- 14, it states that no person shall start an open air fire between 8:00am and 6:00pm from April 1 to October 31 of any given year. Any fire cannot be any larger than 10 feet x 10 feet by 6 feet high.

A responsible adult **MUST** supervise and have adequate tools and water supply on hand to contain the fire.

Incinerators must have a mesh size of no larger than ½ inch and cannot be within six feet of any flammable materials.

These restrictions can be superceded by wind conditions and/or any FIRE BAN ORDER issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Township of Galway Cavendish & Harvey Fire Department. Camp fires for cooking or warmth are the only exception, campfires are those defined as; no larger than 2 feet x 2 feet x 2 feet high.

Any person who contravenes this By-Law could be subjected to fines and the cost of a fire suppression response.

Should you have any questions on the Burn Policy or require any other information please call Fire Services at 1-800-374-4009 x 230 or 705-738-3800 x 230.

**ON-GOING PROJECTS:** Once again this year, your Association will continue to be involved in two programs. Water quality is the first one. This program begins the first week of May and continues right through until the end of October. Water samples are taken for phosphorus in early May. Lake temperatures and secchi disk readings are taken throughout the testing period. The second project is the Loon Survey. It has already begun. Observations taken throughout the season are recorded and sent to the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey organization.

**OUR WEBSITE:** [www.crystallakecottagers.ca](http://www.crystallakecottagers.ca)

<p><b>CRYSTAL LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 2010 10:00 A.M. GALWAY HALL</b></p>
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**AGENDA:**

- Welcome
- Dave Ness (Trent Severn Waterway)
- Kerry Walsh, Peter Raymond (EAC)
- CLCA
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Secretary
- Current Executive
- Board of Directors
- CLCA Constitution
- Vote re: Boat Houses
- New Business/ Other Business
- Adjournment

### **HIGH SPEED INTERNET:**

High speed internet at the cottage has been a challenge for lots of folks for a number of years. The prospect of being able to spend more than just the weekend at the lake has enticed many, but with most requiring a high speed Internet connection to access their office remotely and securely has been less than ideal. Solutions offered by satellite and cell providers with expensive usage rates, the reality has been frustrating.

Fortunately, things are beginning to improve. In the case of Crystal Lake, local Minden-based ISP Cottage Country Internet (CCi) a few years ago has installed a fixed wireless link into Crystal Lake. With that link established, CCi was then able to set up a small repeater's that has been providing high speed wireless coverage throughout Clear Bay, Upper Black Bay, the main part of Crystal Lake and down towards Mill Bay. More expansion will continue as required by new clientele.

How would like to spend Monday mornings on your dock answering emails instead of in your office? Coming home a day later and missing out on all that traffic heading south? For more details, visit the Cottage Country Internet website at [www.cottagecountry.net](http://www.cottagecountry.net) or give us a call at our Minden office, 705-286-6580 or toll free 1-866-629-6616.

This could be the summer you get to spend more than just weekends on your dock.

### **COMMUNITY PHARMACIES CAMPAIGN:**

The Ontario government has announced massive cuts to the funding community pharmacies receive.

Now is the time to deliver our message to the government! We must fight to defend the convenient, accessible, trusted pharmacy care and service Ontarians rely on. To say NO to pharmacy funding cuts, please send an automated letter to your MPP by clicking the following link.

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=64&ea.campaign.id=5126>

Thank you for standing up for neighbourhood health care at our Ontario community pharmacies.

### **2010 KINMOUNT AND AREA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### MAY

May 21-24 Artisans Marketplace  
Welcome Back Friends Event

May 22 Kinmount Farmers' Market  
opens for the 2010 season 9a.m.-2 p.m.

May 29 "Yard Sale for the Cure" Re/Max in  
Kinmount

May 29 Hot & Cold Buffet 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. @  
the Kinmount Community Centre by the  
United Church Women

#### JUNE

June 6 Crystal Lake Cottagers' Association AGM  
10:00 a.m. @ the Galway Hall

June 19 Kinmount Legion Dinner & Loonie Auction  
5:00 p.m.

June 24-27 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kinmount Country Jamboree @  
the Kinmount Fairgrounds

June 27 Canada Day Fireworks @ the Fairgrounds  
@dusk

#### JULY

July 3 Strawberry Supper @ the Galway Hall  
4:30 p.m.-7:00p.m.

July 8 Kinmount Pharmacy Customer Appreciation  
Day BBQ

July 10 Strawberry Supper @ the Kinmount Legion  
4:30p.m.-7:00p.m.

July 10 Garden Tour 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

July 14-18 Kinmount Heritage Festival

July 17 Kinmount Moonlight Mania 5:00 p.m.-10:00  
p.m.

July 31 Crystal Lake Boat-in movie @ Knupps  
@ dusk

#### AUGUST

August 1 Crystal Lake Rock Bass Derby

#### SEPTEMBER

September 2 Monster Bingo @ the Kinmount arena by  
the Kinmount & District Lions Club

September 3-5 Kinmount Fall Fair

September 12 Journey for Health Fundraiser @ 9:00 a.m.  
Austin Sawmill Heritage Park