



CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Torrance, Muskoka, Ontario

www.clearlakemuskoka.ca



SPRING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

Hello everyone! I hope your winter was safe and that everyone had a chance to spend some quality family time. The ice is out on the lake and the sun is starting to peek through the clouds of black flies. I hope to see everyone this summer!

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CLPOA AGM Saturday, July 2 IN PERSON!

After two years of meeting by Zoom, this year we will finally be meeting in person on Saturday, July 2nd, at 10 am at the Torrance Community Centre.

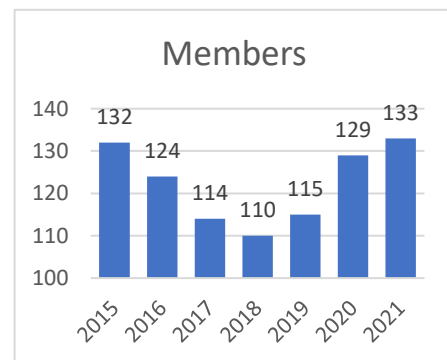
Refreshments will be served, and we hope every cottage will be represented. Come early, carpool with neighbours or walk over. It is a good chance to visit fellow cottagers. Note: Zion Presbyterian Church, a strong member of the Torrance and Clear Lake community for decades, has a fundraiser Bake Sale that day. Their bake sales have been virtual for the last two years, but they will be resuming things this year so bring a few dollars for treats to take home to the cottage.

A huge “Thank You!” to Marg Kenwright who will be stepping down this year. Marg has served on the Board for many years, acting as both President and Secretary. Being a board member is a year-round job with meetings in the fall and spring (and the occasional emergency meetings in January). Her dedication has been incredible all these years. I personally appreciate her leadership over the years and will miss her guidance and mentorship. I’m sure the rest of the board shares those same sentiments. We will miss you, Marg!

This is an Election year. All the remaining Directors stand for re-election and we have lots of room for more fresh faces and enthusiasm. Nominations are open right up to the AGM. Reach out to somebody on the Board if you are interested.

2021 CLPOA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We received 133 memberships in 2021, a slight increase over 2020. Thanks again to Sharon Cleverdon who spent countless hours following up in person. I also want to thank everyone who paid their membership dues. Last year was a second pandemic summer, and the continued support of our members allow us to continue with marker buoy maintenance, liability insurance, membership records, contact lists and mailings, and donations to support groups deemed beneficial to property owners (Muskoka Lakes Association, Safe and Quiet Lakes, Guardians of Muskoka’s Dark Sky, and the Torrance Community Centre), and water quality testing.



This year, we expect to hold our AGM in person but still ask for payment before July 2nd 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 \$30 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

IMPORTANT: ARE YOU A 'MUSKOKA LAKES ASSOCIATION' (MLA) MEMBER?

Let us know by email (membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca). We pay MLA approximately \$775 per year to manage our Water Test Program tests and results. MLA will deduct \$30 from this amount for every CLPOA Member who is also an MLA Member. Please see www.mla.on.ca to check out other benefits of membership (\$125 annually). NOTE: MLA is different from MRA (Muskoka Ratepayers Association).

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.

REGATTA - Saturday, July 30

This year we are finally getting back to normal. We expect a regular Regatta to be held on Saturday, July 30 with the boat parade kicking things off at 11 am. Following that, we will have water events, a BBQ, and plenty of socialization. We're still working on the finer details (like location) but we will share that out as soon as we know. Stay tuned!

FIREWORKS BYLAW UPDATE

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 to do so 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.

SITE ALTERATION BYLAW UPDATE

While the current by-law has been effective, administration and enforcement of the by-law since 2008 have identified areas in need of improvement. In addition, Council has requested that the distance regulated from the water's edge be increased as well as making entire island properties subject to the by-law.

Some of the more notable changes to the By-law include Lands Subject to the By-law, Patios and Stairways/Pathways and Sedimentation Fence Requirements.

An overview cheat sheet of the effective changes can be found on the project page at:

https://engagemuskokalakes.ca/sitealteration/news_feed/effective-changes-overview-cheat-sheet

ROTARY ROCKS THE BARGE

In celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Gravenhurst, they have launched a new community initiative, Rotary Rocks The Barge. Envision you and your loved ones gathering together once again to enjoy live entertainment and events from the comfort of new amphitheatre seating built into the existing hillside at Gull Lake Rotary Park. The upgraded and safer setting will be appreciated by all visitors who would enjoy sitting on an otherwise awkward slope. The view of Gull Lake and the surrounding Canadian Shield granite is spectacular. The vision includes granite slabs buttressing the grade, alternating with level grass surfaces. Granite is everlasting and also warms in the sun. Visitors to events at the park can bring cushions or blankets and take in the experience safely and comfortably.

A special recognition plaque will be predominantly displayed at Gull Lake Rotary Park acknowledging the generosity of our community.

A website with more details and pictures is in the works www.rotaryrocksthebarge.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CONCERT

Hold the date: Saturday, July 16th for a concert at the Clear Lake Brewery in support of Habitat for Humanity's build in Bala this summer. The concert will feature a maritime folk band performing "shanty" music. More details to come later.

HOSPICE MUSKOKA

Hospice Muskoka has started a petition to add 5 respite beds at Hospice Muskoka. If this is a matter of importance to you, please consider signing at:

<https://www.change.org/p/hospice-muskoka-matters>

BEARS

The bears are making their rounds again on Clear Lake Rd. Several steel bins that were not latched properly have been toppled over and bags left out loose on Sunday night for Monday morning pick up have been dragged by the bears from the road edge, into the forest across the road causing a lot of debris having to be cleaned up. Please make sure that any trash put out overnight is placed in a properly secured bear-safe bin.

LDD (FORMERLY GYPSY) MOTHS

The Cleverdons scraped a bag full of egg sacks off of the trees around their property. Each silky egg sack contains 600 to 1,000 eggs which are due to hatch in early to mid-Spring.



The caterpillars devoured tree leaves last summer and their brown speck droppings covered everything including decks, patios, outdoor furniture and cars.

The egg sacks cannot be thrown out in the garbage and it is suggested that they be scraped into a bucket of soapy water and left for a few days however we have found it easiest to scrape them into a bag and then burn the bag.

Please check your trees, patio furniture, wood piles, etc. for these egg sacks and dispose of them as best you can.

BEAVERS

Late last fall some property owners were informed by the Township of Muskoka Lakes that there was a possible drainage obstruction located on their property which may be affecting the water levels in Black Lake and surrounding properties.

It was determined that the beaver dams, in addition to the overall very high-water levels due to much rain this fall, had blocked the natural drainage so much that it was high enough that it might reverse the flow. Apart from the flooding, this could have permanent negative effects on our Clear Lake water quality. At least four dams were taken out by a resident but there were more still in place. Working with the Black Lake property owners,

the CLPOA authorized \$500 (an expected 50/50 split with Black Lake property owners) to aid in the removal of beavers blocking the outflow of Black Lake. We also took some drone footage of the wetlands and were able to identify and map eight confirmed and probably dams. These dams were all downstream of our outflow creek, confirming the risk of backup.

We have engaged with a trapper, and traps were set before the winter freeze. To date, seven beavers have been trapped with the belief that there are still 20-30 remaining. Three dams located on the southeast end of the wetlands were breached, resulting in a noticeable reduction in water depth in that area.

We had a similar issue with beavers about eight years ago and will need to continue working on keeping the beaver population low as we are unlikely to completely eradicate them. This work is not free and will cost more than the \$500 we were authorized to allocate. An item will be added to the AGM agenda to discuss a long-term funding solution.

WATER SAFETY REMINDER

Please address boating safety issues if you see them. If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, speak to the individual. If you can't talk to them immediately, follow up with them later. If you can't do that, then speak with a member of the Executive and we will follow up.

Boaters – Please use your common sense to stay safe and keep others safe. Don't go skiing/tubing when the lake is full of canoes/kayaks. If there are canoes/kayaks in the water, keep well away while power boating (your wake has an effect). If you are canoeing/kayaking, don't paddle in front of a boat - give them space to drive safely.

REMINDER - BOAT RAMP - HOURS 9am-1pm & WASH YOUR BOTTOM

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.

TIE UP YOUR RAFTS

Please make sure you securely tie up your dock/raft/kayak. There were many items lost last year putting boaters at risk of hitting waterborne obstacles. Also, to aid in returning lost items please put your name on things where possible.

PADDLE UP THURSDAYS

Once again this year, every Thursday night we invite our members to paddle or row the lake. Come out in your paddle boat, kayak, or canoe and meet up with fellow paddlers to get on the water and enjoy the lake.

Ian McClellan, on behalf of CLPOA Board of Directors, Margaret Kenwright, Ron Algate, Lisa Pennycook, Mike Silver, Charlie Wilkins, Jeremy Silver, Tom Skopek