

# CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Torrance, Muskoka, Ontario  
[www.clearlakemuskoka.ca](http://www.clearlakemuskoka.ca)



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2022

Hello everyone and thank you to all who attended the AGM in person this past weekend. We had some lively discussions, and I appreciate the passion and care our members have.

### INTRODUCING CLPOA BOARD 2022-24

At our AGM on July 2, 2022, seven of the current CLPOA directors stood for re-election. One candidate was nominated for election, Natale Catalano, and the slate of eight directors was approved. At the follow-up board meeting, the directors met and agreed to fill the following positions:

- **DIRECTORS AT LARGE:** Ron Algate, Charlie Wilkins, Tom Skopek, Natale Catalano
- **PRESIDENT:** Ian McClennan
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** Lisa Pennycook
- **TREASURER:** Jeremy Silver. Thank you, Ron, for your careful management and dedication as past Treasurer for many years.
- **SECRETARY:** Mike Silver. Thank you, Margaret, for your many years on the Board and your service as CLPOA President and Secretary.

**INDISPENSABLE NON-BOARD MEMBERS:** BOB CLEVERDON, SHARON CLEVERDON, and PAUL TRAYES volunteer so much time in the interest of Clear Lake. Bob and Sharon collect water samples on specific dates and at specific locations for MLA testing. Sharon is CLPOA Membership Chair. Paul keeps all the marker buoys in excellent condition, stores them every winter and replaces them every spring.

### REGATTA – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will once again have an in-person Regatta this year! As always, the boat parade will kick off at 11:00 AM on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at the entrance to the Big Bay. Water events and BBQ will follow at the Cleverdon cottage starting at 1:00 pm – bubble blowing for the little ones, swimming for all, paddle boat races, and the ever-popular tug-of-war. A delicious free lunch of hot dogs, chips, and pop.

This event doesn't happen on its own though. We need some volunteers to help make this a success – we need some volunteers to be judges, hand out ribbons, cook the food, and help with some additional behind-the-scenes organization. You won't have to do it all on your own, but many hands make light work. Please reach out if you can volunteer some time. Prize donations are also welcome!

### CLPOA MEMBERSHIP

We appreciate those who have paid their dues so far, but we still have a few property owners who have not yet paid their \$30. Dues can be paid by e-transfer to [membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca](mailto:membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca) or by cheque or by bank transfer.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Habitat for Humanity is holding a concert at the Clear Lake Brewery on Saturday, July 16th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in support of their build in Bala. Come on out and enjoy the music!

## TORRANCE BARRENS

Greg Knight and his team went out to do a garbage cleanup at the Barrens this Spring (as they've done for a few years now) and were surprised at how little there was to pick up. The efforts of all those involved with the maintenance of that area are obviously paying off. Thank you to everyone who has helped turn this area around!

## HOSPICE MUSKOKA



Hospice Muskoka has 8 beds open at Andy's House, made possible by a short-term contract with the Muskoka Algonquin Health Centre. However, they are still petitioning the Government of Ontario to provide much-needed funding for additional palliative beds. Scan the QR code on the left to sign the petition.

They are also hosting a monthly 50/50 to support their programs. Tickets can be purchased at <http://hospicemuskoka5050.ca>

## BEER SPA CONCERNS

There were several concerns raised during the meeting about noise emanating from the Beer Spa. We met with Greg Knight, the owner of the Beer Spa, on Sunday to discuss the concerns with him.

We met with Greg Knight on Sunday, July 3rd to discuss the issues with excessive noise and guest behaviour. Greg understood the concerns and was very receptive to making the following changes:

- engage with his sound engineers to refocus the amplified speakers away from the lake
- reduce the volume of the amplified speakers by 20%
- Greg has already booked five acts this summer but plans to scale the number of performances back next year.

Upcoming events:

- July 2 - Jane's Party
- July 16 - Destroyer (Kiss tribute band)
- July 30 - My Son The Hurricane
- August 6 - Skye Wallace
- August 20 - Rocket Queen (Guns'N'Roses tribute band)

Additionally, Greg agrees that the traffic situation on that corner is unsafe:

- He is already working with engineers from the District of Muskoka to review the operation of traffic at the main highway intersection and along Muskoka Road 169 between East Black Lake and the ball diamond (generally speaking). - The district engineers will be conducting a review of the intersection to determine signage requirements, and Greg will ask them to also review the nearby sections of Southwood Rd and Clear Lake Rd for a possible reduction in speed limit
- He was supportive of enforcement of the No Parking zones
- He will add a pedestrian warning sign directly across from the parking lot entrance

Our meeting with Greg was positive and Greg is committed to working with us to maintain a harmonious relationship. However, even though Greg has no plans to sell we recognize that Greg may not always be the owner and future owners may not be as accommodating. As a result, as well as taking the steps above we are also beginning the work of strengthening the noise bylaws. Our goal will be to adopt a more rigorous bylaw that defends our members' desire for tranquillity while also respecting a commercial establishment's ability to operate profitably.

If there are noise concerns in the meantime, please raise them first with the Beer Spa directly. Call them at (416)271-9515. If the issue is not resolved, and the noise is in violation of the noise bylaw, call the Township of Muskoka Lakes By-Law Officer at (705)765-3156. An answering service is available 24/7. The noise bylaw requires all amplified sound, music or loud voices to cease at 11:00 pm. Between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am noise must not trespass from your property to another.

If you do reach out to the Beer Spa or a by-law officer, please also let us know so we can gauge how often those calls get made.

#### BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Bob Cleverdon described the differences between normal algal blooms and blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria). As he mentioned during the water quality report, our lake has a very low level of phosphorous which does not make us a likely candidate for these harmful algae. The attached PDF has a visual guide to help identify algae. As Bob mentioned, the simplest test is to try to pick it up with a rake. Regular algae will form clumps or silky strings. Blue-green algae will dissipate. However, just because it dissipates DOES NOT mean it is harmful algae. This spring featured a few days where the pollen was quite heavy, forming a thick layer on top of the lake that wouldn't be picked up with a rake. If you are concerned with something you see in the water, please reach out to Bob first as he has the equipment and experience to verify identification. He will raise any possible harmful algae identification to the Board and to the authorities.

#### HUNTING CORMORANTS

There were concerns raised about cormorants on the lake, chasing away the loons and causing damage to trees. A question was raised about hunting them. The government of Ontario did announce a province-wide fall season for hunting double-breasted cormorants from September 15th to December 31st. The daily bag limit is 15 birds under the authority of your small game license. Please note that the Township of Muskoka Lakes bylaw 2009-106 imposes additional limitations on the discharge of firearms (including for hunting), specifically in Bala, Torrance, and other nearby towns. The map of Torrance as identified in Schedule C of the bylaw (<https://muskokalakes.civicweb.net/document/78268>) does not appear to include the properties surrounding Clear Lake.

#### BEAVER UPDATE

Bob Cleverdon gave an update on the beaver situation. There are still upwards of 20 beavers back there, and it will be an ongoing effort to manage them. The membership voted to spend up to \$2000 per year for the next seven years to deal with water level management. We will be working collaboratively with property owners on Black Lake (they do not have an association) to manage the beavers.

*Ian McClelland*, on behalf of CLPOA Board of Directors, Ron Algate, Lisa Pennycook, Mike Silver, Charlie Wilkins, Jeremy Silver, Tom Skopek, Natale Catalano