



# CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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



## FALL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Hello and Happy Thanksgiving, fellow cottagers! I hope everyone is safe and healthy this fall. I am sure our American cottagers are missing Clear Lake – we hope travel will re-open soon.

### 2020 CLPOA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have received 117 memberships to date this year, which compares favourably to last year. Considering this past summer, I want to **thank everybody for their contribution**. Our expenses have not taken a break during the pandemic, and your continued support is important. The membership dues 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). Those dues also go towards water quality testing, the AGM hall rental, and the Regatta, which we look forward to in 2021. If we have not yet received at least one paid membership from your cottage, please expect an email reminder from [membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca](mailto:membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca). Thank you for your attention to this.

A huge Thank You to Sharon Cleverdon and Ron Algate that put in many extra volunteer hours collecting memberships this year.

Please also remember that "One paid membership = One Vote", 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 (BOAT PARADE)

This year's Regatta was a much smaller event than years earlier, but we were glad to be able to have the boat parade all the same. We are thankful to the families that participated and those who helped with the prizes. Congratulations to the Lennie and Rinaldi families for their Broken Paddle winner, "It's a COVID Christmas"! We are looking forward to a full Regatta in 2021.

## WATER HAZARDS

It has been a particularly bad year for losing docks and rafts. We sent several emails through the summer about a section of dock/raft that had floated away multiple times. The offending hazard was removed from the lake and disposed of. These items are a danger to boaters on the lake. We have many skiers and tubers travelling at high speeds, and if one of them comes across a stray dock or raft, it could prove fatal.

As you close up this fall, and again when you re-open in the spring, please take some time to carefully review potential hazards on or around your property - dead or dying trees overhanging the water, docks with vegetation growth or otherwise severely compromised, floating docks inadequately moored, dock beams pushed up on shore just waiting for the ice to take them in the spring. These are all hazards. If you have any on your property, please remove or repair them immediately. If you are aware of hazards but are unable to remove or repair them, for whatever reason, please let us know. We would rather deal with them in place before they become bigger problems.

We are also encouraging cottagers to label your things (canoes, paddles, life jackets, water toys). Some of these items will inevitably find their way into the lake unattended and float to a neighbour. Labelling them will help speed their safe recovery.

## TORRANCE BARRENS CLEANUP

About a hundred people showed up on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to help clean up the Torrance Barrens. By the end of the day, we had collected over a hundred garbage bags worth of trash. Thanks to the Clear Lake Brewery (who organized it and offered pizza and drinks afterward) and to all who participated.

## TORRANCE BARRENS UPDATE

The Torrance Barrens has been over run this season. The MOE has not backed away from its pro-camping and fire making position, but has erected some new signage and is enforcing a limited camping ban 200 meters from the road. This is a start, but more is needed.

A Zoom meeting was held with MPP Norm Miller and with all the local interest groups and mayors and councilors and staff of Gravenhurst and Muskoka. All were united in asking Norm Miller to expedite an immediate camping and fire ban. Notwithstanding, Norm Miller's office has been silent and seems to be asleep at the wheel. Far more has been achieved through the advocacy of the Township directly with the MOE.

The goal is to have a memorandum of understanding between the Township and MOE which gives a committee to be formed of local people certain powers and scope to properly manage the Barrens. Stay tuned---more will be known in a few months.

#### YMCA CAMP PINE CREST UPDATE

YMCA Camp Pine Crest is still open! They have hugely reduced all programming and focused on small safe family programs like cabin/cottage or campsite rentals. They are also creating a list of programs that families can book in short one-hour blocks or perhaps over a couple of days. If you (or potential renters of your place) are interested in something new to do this Fall/Winter/Spring, programs will include ideas like hiking, canoeing, kayaking, disc golf, high ropes, x-country skiing, tubing, snowshoeing just to name a few. Follow them on Facebook or send an email to [camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org](mailto:camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org) to ask any questions.

#### 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 using 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.

#### AGM Saturday, July 3 at Torrance Community Centre

We hope to return to the Torrance Community Centre to hold our AGM in person next year. We will be sending out an agenda in the spring.

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