



CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Torrance, Muskoka, Ontario
www.clearlakemuskoka.ca



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2020

Hello, Fellow Cottagers! Hope everyone is enjoying the summer and staying safe.

INTRODUCING CLPOA BOARD 2020-22

At our AGM on June 24, 2020, all six of the current CLPOA directors stood for re-election. Two candidates were nominated for election, Tom Skopek and Jeremy Silver, 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: Michael Silver, Jeremy Silver, Tom Skopek, Charlie Wilkins**
- **SECRETARY, PAST PRESIDENT: Margaret Kenwright.** Thank you, Margaret, for your dedication as CLPOA President over the past two years.
- **PRESIDENT: Ian McClennan**
- **TREASURER: Ron Algate**
- **VICE PRESIDENT: Lisa Pennycook**

INDESPENSABLE 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

Sadly, due to COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, the traditional Regatta BBQ and water events will not take place this year. However, the boat parade still happening! The parade will kick off at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 1st. Since this is the only lake event planned this summer, feel free to participate even if you aren't planning on decorating your boat. If you do decide to decorate, the judges defined a set of scoring criteria including originality/timeliness of theme, decorations, number of kids participating, sound effects, and effort.

CLPOA MEMBERSHIP

We appreciate the \$30 paid by just over 80 families so far, but over 30% of property owners have not yet paid. As we usually rely on the AGM and Regatta to collect membership dues in person, it is no surprise that the biggest drop is in people who pay by cash or cheque. CLPOA expenses are ongoing and everyone's dues are needed to cover **Water Quality Testing – Marker Buoy Maintenance – Regatta – CLPOA AGM Hall Rental – Contact Lists – Membership Records – Mailings – Liability Insurance – Legal Advice – Donations to advocacy groups deemed beneficial to property owners** (*Muskoka Lakes*

Association, Safe and Quiet Lakes, Guardians of Muskoka's Dark Sky, Torrance Community Centre). If we have not yet received at least one paid membership from your cottage, please expect an email reminder from membership@clearlakemuskoka.ca. Thank you for your attention to this.

Please remember that “One paid Membership = One Vote”, required to elect the Board of Directors and to vote on issues needing Association approval. The Cottagers’ contact list is available only to paid members.

CAMP PINE CREST

With overnight camps not happening this summer due to COVID-19, some members may assume that Camp Pine Crest is not in use over the summer. That is not the case. They are still running a day camp and their facilities are in use daily. Although we have sent an email earlier and discussed it at the AGM, there are still cases of trespassing on their property. Recently, a boat tied up to their dock while the parents watched their kids climb up onto their tower and jump off several times. They have also had trespassers on their property, both on foot and riding through on mountain bikes. Some of them have tried entering the cabins assuming they were unoccupied. Please be respectful of their property. Make sure your family members, friends, guests, renters, and neighbours know that they must not hike on or boat to the property of YMCA Camp Pine Crest.

The Camp has also reported that one of their Disc Golf receptacles went missing at the end of last fall. They are 4 ½' tall poles with a metal catching tray about 3' off the ground and a stainless-steel chain basket hanging above it with a green plastic rim that reads “DISCatcher” (image attached). If you have seen it out in the wild, its return would be greatly appreciated.

The issue of rentals at the Camp was raised at the AGM. Coel Balmer shared the following:

Renters will be adhering to all of the same policies that we have our staff/campers use when on these sites. All of these campsites we manage are on Gullwing and Echo lake as years ago a director made a promise to stop using Pioneer point which would have been our only site on Clear Lake. [...] Here are some of the guidelines camper groups will have to follow:

- No boating/swimming at night
- Proper PFDs and first aid kits mandatory
- Only camping with their isolation bubble/group with a maximum of 10 on a site
- Catch and release fishing
- No loud noise after 10 pm
- We must adhere to all fire ban regulations
- No fireworks
- No moving to another site or coming into the camp buildings (stay on one assigned site during their stay)
- No drugs or alcohol
- No pets
- and probably some I am forgetting.

We will be having them sign a waiver of all of these guidelines. We will also have a staff on call 24 hours a day in case of emergency and to on occasion take a boat drive out to monitor.

I think it will be a fun way for our alumni, staff and families to connect to camp that have missed out on this summer or just reliving a time when they were with us. At the moment I have a lot of

interest and all are connected to camp in that way. I am sure I will get some public interest but we are aiming to get our connected families first and honestly we may fill up as we only have 6 sites.

Considering the unique situation this summer, we do not feel this is in violation of any agreements currently in place.

MLA GOOD NEIGHBOUR CODE

The MLA has put out a printer-friendly one-page sheet outlining basic ways we can be good neighbours at the cottage. A link to the PDF is on the main page of the website. While these behaviours are likely second nature to you and your family, they serve as a great summary for friends and renters.

DARK SKY LIGHTING

At the AGM, Councillor Donelda Hayes mentioned that the Township of Muskoka Lakes Dark Sky By-law (attached) will take effect in January of 2024. As part of that bylaw, all external lights must be Dark Sky compliant by that date. If you are planning any updates or improvements around the cottage this summer, please keep this in mind.

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.

WATER HAZARDS

Every year Bob and Brett Cleverdon and others pull floating hazards out of the lake in the spring - dock decking, dock beams and tree trunks are the usual flotsam. Earlier this week they removed a 17-foot tree trunk that they recovered from the middle of the lake in May. Objects of this size represent a significant hazard to fellow cottagers who enjoy being on the water. It could sink or flip any sort of watercraft, likely resulting in personal injuries or worse.

Please take time to periodically survey your shoreline for potential hazards Do you have a deteriorating dock that is at risk of break up from ice movement or wave action? Do you have dead or dying trees along your shoreline that are just waiting to fall into the lake? Timely removal of these types of hazards will help ensure we have a safe lake.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Missing Disc Golf Receptacle
- Dark Sky By-law