



## SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clear Lake friends,

It will be a strange summer, being in the midst of a pandemic. Never before have we expressed the hope that all of us are even able to be at Clear Lake. Whether at our cottages or in our year-round homes, our collective focus will be keeping neighbours, friends and families safe from COVID-19.

Your Board met over the internet by 'Zoom' in May. Here's what we talked about.

1. **AGM 2020 by ZOOM, Wednesday, June 24th, 7pm**
2. **2019 INCOME STATEMENT**
3. **MEMBERSHIP**
4. **2019 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS**
5. **BOAT PARADE (without Regatta) IS ON! Saturday, August 1st, 11am**
6. **FISHING - Catch and Release**
7. **BOAT RAMP - HOURS 9am-1pm & WASH YOUR BOTTOM**
8. **SPEED ON RIDGE RD & CLEAR LAKE RD**
9. **TORRANCE BARRENS BOARDWALKS**
10. **KEEP IN TOUCH**

### 1. **AGM 2020 by ZOOM, Wednesday, June 24th, 7pm**

All are invited to 2020 AGM using ZOOM. Let us meet over the internet since COVID-19 protocols prevent our usual gathering. A quorum of 15 is required for a CLPOA AGM. We expect many more will participate. (*See attached HOW TO ATTEND AGM BY ZOOM*)

We scheduled Wednesday, June 24th, 7pm because Canada Day weekend might be less convenient for people to attend in this manner.

This is an Election year. All current Directors stand for re-election and we are very pleased that Thomas Skopek has accepted Nomination by Simone Skopek (He says, "Thanks, Mom"). Tom's lifetime of summers at 1045 Ridge Rd sparked interest to be part of his lake association. Tom's Math degree, experience in private equity, being a programmer and entrepreneur and his varied interests including Muskoka's trails are valuable assets.

Nominations are open right up to the AGM. We have lots of room for more fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

ATTACHED FOR YOUR REVIEW BEFORE AGM: (i) DRAFT MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

(AGM Attendees must have paid 2020 dues to vote. **1 Membership = 1 Vote**)

- (ii) 2019 INCOME STATEMENT
- (iii) 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
- (iv) HOW TO ATTEND AGM BY ZOOM

## 2. 2019 INCOME STATEMENT

Ron Algate notes that the deficit balance of \$753.97 will be offset next year. We have since received \$800 reimbursement from Township of Muskoka Lakes for having paid for the production and installation of the *Dark Sky Preserve* sign at Torrance Barrens. Thank you, Ron, for keeping our finances well on track. Cottagers will see we just squeaked into the black with 115 paid Memberships, so we do need more participation in order to avoid raising the cost of membership.

## 3. 2020 MEMBERSHIP \$30.00

- **1 Membership = 1 Vote at AGM**
- Water Quality Testing
- Marker Buoy maintenance (*Paul Traves thanks boaters for not tying up to buoys*)
- Regatta (*saving for 2021!*)
- Membership Records, Contact List, Communications
- CLPOA and Director liability insurance
- Legal advice (*with Members' approval to seek*)
- Donation/membership to groups deemed beneficial to property owners such as Muskoka Lakes Association; Safe and Quiet Lakes; Torrance Community Centre; others as agreed by Membership
- Cover most cost of Clear Lake Plaques so they may be available at low price

**Each civic address is entitled to a maximum of four (4) Memberships.**

**2020 Paid Members aged 18 or older may vote on elections and other issues.**

Thank you, fellow cottagers, for 115 paid memberships in 2019. This year, without an opportunity to pay in person at AGM, we ask for payment prior to June 24th by ONLINE E-TRANSFER, TD BRANCH to TD BRANCH TRANSFER or by CHEQUE mailed to: CLPOA, c/o Sharon Cleverdon, 1077 Clear Lake Road, Torrance, POC 1M0.

*Find all payment options described in the attached "2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL"*

We thank Sharon for her ongoing, dedicated work in partnership with Ron Algate, keeping tabs on our Membership records.

## 4. 2019 WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Bob Cleverdon reported the secchi disk test (clarity) came back at 6.2m, in line with the 12-year average of 6.3m. Bacteria count was good, around 53 points (standard is 300). E.coli showed one hot test, but well below the standard and not a concern.

MLA water test program has been canceled this year due to COVID-19 related issues. MLA has described Clear Lake as "a diamond among all the good lakes in Muskoka" and we honour our responsibility to keep it that way. We adopted Bob's

suggestion to make available again our Clear Lake Pledge plaque and to increase focus on shoreline vegetation. More information on this later in the summer.

Bob gave an historical account of problems, generally, with phosphorous testing which was based on a model from 1975. Although frequently modified, it is considered insufficient. A 2016 study suggests rather than looking at a set threshold, data will be reviewed as a trend where any increases over three years be treated as warnings and increases over five years result in a freeze on development and additional constraints. New focus will be on vegetation buffers, soil protection, enhanced septic setback rules, and on-site storm water control for new development.

Many thanks to Bob Cleverdon for his detailed report and explaining aspects of water quality testing. Please refer to CLPOA website ([www.clearlakemuskoka.ca](http://www.clearlakemuskoka.ca)) where you will find Bob's full report.

#### **5. BOAT PARADE Saturday, August 1st, 11am**

Lisa Pennycook was gearing up to organize another fun Regatta when this lockdown happened. After Board discussion, we agreed one possible event could be a 'Safe from COVID' Boat Parade.. an extension of the physical distancing we have all practiced for months now. This idea is put forward with the serious understanding we all strictly adhere to recommendations from Ontario health authorities as of August 1st. Lisa says think of each watercraft as one social pod. This is definitely not an "all you can fit into the boat" parade.. maybe it will be an "all the different watercraft you can think of" parade while guarding that personal space.

#### **6. FISHING - Catch and Release**

At least we can still enjoy fishing during a pandemic. Charlie Wilkins reminds us that large bass really must be released if caught. Pike and cormorants seriously deplete the number of small bass in Clear Lake, leaving a very limited immature population to replace the large breeding fish that are sometimes visible in the shallows, especially during breeding season.

We see the big ones, and presume the overall population is healthy. But it is not. We strongly encourage cottagers and guests to use a catch-and-release approach to fishing for bass. Please help restore the bass population.. carefully return your catch to the lake.

#### **7. 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.

## **8. SPEED ON RIDGE RD, CLEAR LAKE RD and BETWEEN**

Ridge Road's surface improvement has created a bit of a speedway. Drivers may not realize their cars' roar going by but, being cottagers, should be aware these are residential roads with hidden driveways and great chance of children (or even turkeys) meandering onto the road. Please, please slow down and ask service company drivers to do the same.

If motorboats head out ninety degrees from their docks, very little wake disturbs neighbouring properties. It's while gaining speed on a lesser angle to shore that wake accumulates and increases at shoreline, long after a boat has passed. We should take a minute to plan our direction before taking off, especially with a skier in tow.

Clear Lake's size and small frontages, compared with the big lakes, leads to the conclusion we should temper our boating practices by the difference.

## **9. TORRANCE BARRENS BOARDWALKS**

As seen in our income statement (new sign), CLPOA remains interested in the Torrance Barrens and the Dark Sky Preserve. Boardwalks are in a deplorable state and for the past few years Mike Silver has urged the Township of Muskoka Lakes (TML) and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to fix them, for safety. YMCA Camp Pine Crest, through Coel Balmer, has frequently offered to donate hours of labour to help. This past Spring, \$20,000 was approved in the TML budget toward the boardwalks. Ruth Nishikawa (TML and District of Muskoka Councilor) will update us when she hears back from her contacts at MECP and Ontario Parks.

## **10. KEEP IN TOUCH**

VP/Secretary Ian McClennan is the stalwart keeper of our CLPOA website ([www.clearlakemuskoka.ca](http://www.clearlakemuskoka.ca)) and manages all our online communication. We cottagers can keep in touch on the website finding Water Quality reports, past meeting Minutes, we can submit photos of wildlife sightings or contribute family photos and stories to Mike McClennan's Clear lake History section. We thank Mike for his many years on the Board and for his continuing interest in all things "Clear Lake".

Ian also created our Twitter account (@ClearLake\_CLPOA) and we thank Erin McClennan--all in the family!--for managing our Facebook page (Clear Lake Cottage Owners Association -- CLPOA)

*Marg Kenwright* on behalf of CLPOA Board of Directors Ron Algate, Ian McClennan, Lisa Pennycook, Michael Silver, Charles Wilkins.

PLEASE SEE 4 ATTACHMENTS: - DRAFT MINUTES OF 2019 AGM  
- 2019 INCOME STATEMENT  
- 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
- HOW TO ATTEND AGM BY ZOOM