

FALL/WINTER 2014

# Clear Lake Newsletter

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PST! Don't Forget...  
CLPOA A.G.M.

**SUN. JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Registration:  
9:30 AM

## Important Numbers

Emergency – 911  
(Know your Civic Address)  
Ontario Provincial Police  
888-310-1122  
Huntsville Hospital  
705-789-2311  
Poison Info Centre  
800-268-9017  
Forest Fire Report  
888-863-3473  
Hydro (No Power)  
800-461-6418  
MNR Bear Report  
866-514-2327



Clear Lake Property Owners Association  
P.O. Box 271, Emsdale, ON, POA 1J0  
[www.clearlakepropertyowners.com](http://www.clearlakepropertyowners.com)  
[info@clearlakepropertyowners.com](mailto:info@clearlakepropertyowners.com)

## Clear Lake 2015 Calendar – Photo Contest & Ordering!



In October we asked members of the Facebook group "Friends of Clear Lake" to submit their photos for a Clear Lake Calendar we are assembling for the coming year.

*Thank you to everyone that submitted photos!*

We received a number of stunning shots of our beautiful lake, and now look forward to the

tedious task of selecting the photos for the individual months. Information will be available on our website, the Facebook page, and sent out via email to our members when the calendars are available for ordering.

## Snowmobilers: Get Ready, Get Set...Go!

It's getting to be that time of year again...Snowmobiles will soon be scooting across snow-covered trails, roads and lakes. The following information comes from the OFSC website. For more information about safe snowmobiling, permits and more, visit online at [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca)

Assumptions for OFSC Trail Use:

- The max speed on trails is 50 km/hr unless reduced
- Operators will stay to the right of trails
- Operators and passengers know that trails are NOT

maintained highways

- Operators and passengers are aware that cell phone service is NOT available everywhere
- Operators and passengers know the unique and particular danger of ice crossing
- Operators and passengers will dress appropriately for all conditions and will have appropriate emergency equipment at all times

Be safe, have fun, and remember to bundle up!



Photo: Wendy Evelyn

## President's Message – Fall / Winter 2014

2014 – The Year of "Firsts" Beyond our Wildest & Waviest Expectations

As we bid adieu to Fall and prepare for what is touted as another 'heavy snow' winter, it's informative reflect back. Hindsight is 20/20, isn't it?

Our first first of the year kicked off with a revised CLPOA Constitution at our first 25<sup>th</sup> CLPOA Anniversary. Members at our 2014 AGM were quick to approve the new procedural guidelines document that was carefully prepared by a CLPOA Committee. Thanks, again, to Brenda Pantling, Bruce Dow and Kirsten Both for their dedication in creating a well written roadmap upon which to plot future successes.

The second first was an info packed AGM that held everyone in silent contemplation. Robert Palin, North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority, presented much news about septic systems. He left behind copies of a slide show that are available upon request. To contact Robert Palin: 705-474-5420 / [nbmca@nbmca.on.ca](mailto:nbmca@nbmca.on.ca) Dr. Colin Yates, Waterloo University of Environmental Sciences, shared a vision for a future world that is more cognizant of how precious our lake, and every waterway worldwide, truly is. Dr. Yates introduced the community partnership program that CLPOA had already engaged. He shared a vision for environmental conscience to support tourism, the right to clean waters and the understandable expectations of future generations. To contact Dr. Yates: 1-226-220-0133 / [cyates@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cyates@uwaterloo.ca)

The third first was a record setting number of CLPOA Directors retiring from a record setting CLPOA Board of seventeen. Past Director Bill Pasel loaned me a mallet for our lively Board meetings and I had never chaired such a large and passionate group of what I term 'Lake Lovers.' We acknowledged our first year Directors of 1990 and gave our warm thanks to 2014 Retiring Directors Shirley DeConkey, Terri Watt, Dru Betts, Dillys Boniface, Scott Barber, Ed Patton, Bill Pasel and Barry Pattison. We also welcomed the return of a CLPOA Commercial Owner Representative with the election of James Zantingh representing Maple Brae.

Our fourth first was the presentation at our AGM of our first scientific study of Clear Lake. Our Lake Capacity Assessment (LCA) was distributed and a slide show portrayed our trouble spots rather succinctly. Clear Lake is far over capacity. Boat traffic, shoreline erosion and more were highlighted for us to learn about and consider. Hutchinson Environmental Sciences, the Lake Modeller for the entire District of Muskoka, prepared the LCA. Copies remain available for anyone interested. Can you guess who our Guest Speaker will be at our 2015 AGM??

The fifth first was the Waterloo University summer student program which Dr. Yates administered. The university students hit the lake repeatedly thanks to our CLPOA Water

Quality Guru Ron Cox and his newly elected partner, CLPOA Director Kipling Campbell. The lab at the university is extremely well equipped and the resultant report is both useful and valuable. Our rising phosphorous levels were abundantly clear. Still, we saw pics of large trout caught in our lake and the loons cruised about with a baby all summer long thanks to swift action at times from many to protect the fragile family from human impact.

And then, without much warning other than our three years of rising phosphorous levels, along came number six as our first ever Dept. of Health Advisory warning of a possibly toxic Blue Green Algae. The MOE was on our lake on Sept. 29, drew samples and days later the public notices hit. Every single one of us came face to face with an uncertain future. We were forced to ponder causes – together. We've only just begun and we must continue without hesitation. The Facebook group which is separate from CLPOA literally zoomed into full bloom as many scrambled for insight. Thanks to CLPOA Director Bruce Dow for his dedication to keeping our neighbourhood online and upbeat.

## President's Message - Continued

Number seven in our stream of rather significant firsts was our first 'Town Hall Style Community Meeting' held on Saturday of the Thanksgiving weekend. We joined together to learn, lament, brainstorm en masse and search for a future path. CLPOA announced a Committee to be dedicated to finding our next steps. Septic, phosphates, shoreline erosion, large boat wake damage, fertilizers, global warming, the very characteristics of our small, sandy shoreline adorned, headwater lake and more will be primary focal points. Dr. Colin Yates will guide us with a report to be issued shortly. We are most appreciative of his expertise and our ability to retain the expertise the lake needs. Thanks for the continuing donations of \$200 per property as we do honestly need these resources.

We're looking to a different membership canvass style for the coming Spring. A 'dock to dock' cruise is in the works. We may paddle from dock to dock and leave a package on each dock in a plastic bag under a small rock. They deliver the Toronto Star to docks on Georgian Bay this way so we plan to experiment with this ourselves. Should be interesting!

In closing, it's been a truly remarkable year of firsts. As CLPOA President for the third year running, I admit it's been a challenge for which I felt well prepared at times and poorly qualified at others. Decisions were made that not everyone agreed with and, well, it's not always fun and friendly at the top ... if that's what this is. I'm damn passionate about the lake in memory of my late son, Harrison Finn Dale, who truly loved and respected Clear Lake and my sheer determination to turn around our circumstances has hit some as not terribly friendly or upbeat. I apologize. I am humbled by the support and partnership of every single CLPOA Director. We are an awesome team and I pray that the road ahead will lead to success, clarity and a better Clear Lake. Thank you for your partnership.

Debbie Dale, CLPOA President



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small, we do  
them all!*

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Basements  
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Top Soil  
Landscaping  
Dozer Work  
Road Building

## Huntsville Santa Claus Parade 2014 Charity Spotlight: Table Soup Kitchen & Foodbank

The Huntsville Santa Claus Parade will take place on Friday, November 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Huntsville. The theme this year is "Light up Muskoka!" Looking for something fun to do in the Muskoka cold on a Friday night? Come down and check out the parade! Please bring your non-perishable donations with you to be collected by BNI Muskoka North for the Table Soup Kitchen & Foodbank Foundation in Huntsville.

The Table helps to feed families in Huntsville and surrounding areas all year long. They are a great place to stop before heading home from the cottage to donate any food leftover from cottage close-up time!

The Table is located at 9 Hanes Road and is open for donations from 12-3 on Tuesdays and Fridays and 10-1 on Saturdays.

## The “Scoop” on Natural Dishwasher Detergents

A truly natural dishwasher detergent will:

- Be Biodegradable – This means that the product only contains natural, plant-based ingredients that will break down/dissolve easily without destroying the environment.
- Be Free from Artificial Fragrance – It will either be unscented or scented with natural essential oils.
- List Its Ingredients – Full disclosure will be given when it comes to the ingredient list. If the ingredients are not listed, then it’s probably a good idea to not buy the product. Companies that manufacture cleaning products are not required by law to list their ingredients.

In 2010, Canada banned phosphates from all dishwashing detergents, laundry detergents, and all other cleaners, so that harsh ingredient is no longer a worry. Phosphates, in short, make detergents clean better. What was bad about phosphates is that they got into our water ways and were doing harm to all living things—from plants, to algae, to fish, which is why the government stepped in to ban them.



*A line of products that is easy to find and easy on our lakes!*

## Natural Shorelines

Shorelines are more than just the place where land meets water. When left in a natural state, they can be a thriving habitat for a variety of species and can contribute to the overall health of the lake.

According to Muskoka Conservancy: “Maintaining a natural shoreline or re-naturalizing one that has been altered from its natural state is important. A buffer zone of as little as 3 metres has many benefits including improving water quality, protecting your shoreline and attracting desirable wildlife.”

A few more benefits to a natural shoreline...

### Flood Protection

A solid root network at the shoreline will absorb water and hold soil in place, which can help protect your property from flooding.

### Improving Water Quality

Vegetation along the shoreline acts as a filter, removing undesirable substances before they reach the lake.

### Attracting Wildlife

A natural shoreline attracts butterflies, dragonflies and songbirds, and also creates shade for fish.

### Deterring Pests

Canada geese are particular about where they nest and a naturalized shoreline can actually deter them from coming on your property. Geese prefer green grass sections with clear sight lines to water.

James Zantingh

Mortgage Professional

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## Healthy Lawns & Gardens – Naturally!

Muskoka Watershed Council is a great resource for tips and ideas to improve the overall health of your lawn, garden, and lakeside space. Here are a few ways you can help out your local ecosystem – and still maintain a neat appearance:

- \* Waterfront property owners should compost their leaves, while others can mulch them and leave them on their lawn.
- \* Allow a buffer strip of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and wild grasses to grow along waterways to filter out pollutants. Native plants work best because they are adapted to the local environment, require less fertilizer and water, and are less susceptible to disease and pests.
- \* Natural Fertilizers – If your plants show a need, give them regular, small feedings of fertilizer during their growth period. Natural organic matter such as compost, kelp, bone or blood meal will release nutrients on a continuous basis equal to the plant's requirements.
- \* Use natural alternatives to deal with pests instead of using pesticides. Pesticides will not only kill the pest, but may also kill the beneficial bugs and creatures that help keep these pests in check.
- \* Approximately 90 percent of the rain falling on a natural shoreline is absorbed before reaching the water, while up to 55 percent of the rain falling on hard surfaces, including lawns, flows right into the lake. All that runoff hastens erosion, sending silt and sediment into the water.

## What to Plant

### Shrubs

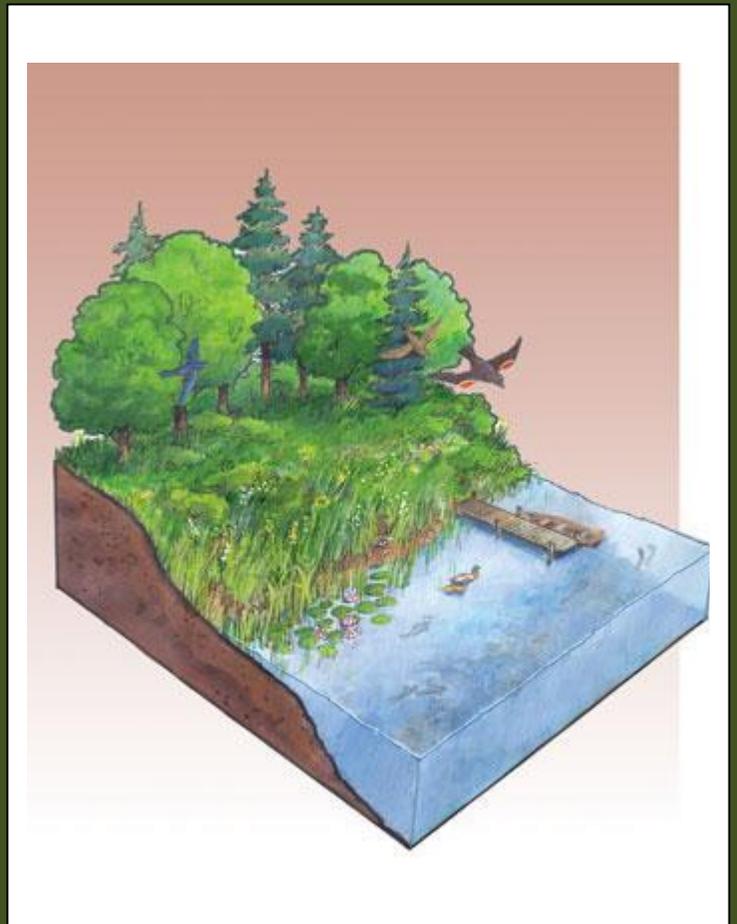
Northern wild raisin (*Viburnum cassinoides*)  
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)  
 Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)  
 Pussywillow (*Salix discolor*)  
 Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)  
 Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)  
 Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)  
 Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)  
 Ninebark (*Physocarpus spulifolius*)  
 Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

### Trees

Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)  
 White pine (*Pinus strobus*)  
 White birch (*Betula papyrifera*)  
 White spruce (*Picea glauca*)  
 White ash (*Fraxinus Americana*)

### Groundcover

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)  
 Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)  
 Trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*)



## EXTRA COMPANY?

Too many guests and not enough space?

Call one of our great Clear Lake Resorts and check out their offerings before you send your overflow guests to Huntsville!

### Algonquin Woods

(705) 636-5612

[algonquinwoods.com](http://algonquinwoods.com)

### Allen's Landing

(705) 787-5324

[allenslanding.ca](http://allenslanding.ca)

### Booker's

(705) 636-5354

[clearlakecottageresort.com](http://clearlakecottageresort.com)

### Clearview

(705) 636-1040

[clearviewcottages.com](http://clearviewcottages.com)

### Cutter's Cove

(705) 636-5070

[cutterscovecottages.ca](http://cutterscovecottages.ca)

### Maple Brae

(705) 636-5390

[maplebraecottages.com](http://maplebraecottages.com)

### Journey's End Lodge

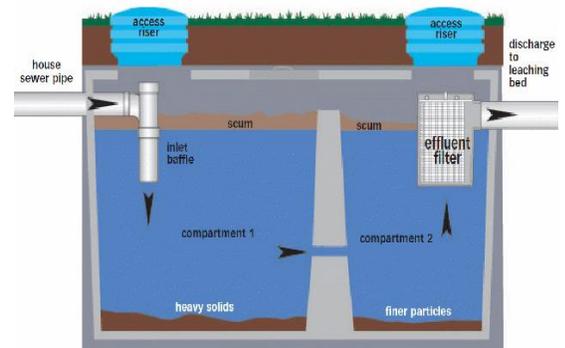
(705) 636-5505

## Septic Awareness: Pump, Maintain & Prevent Issues NOW!

The septic system has two compartments: one for solids where the inlet baffle is and the second for liquids where the outlet baffle leads to the leaching bed. The first compartment holds heavy solids while the second compartment holds finer sediment. The effluent filter located in the outlet baffle prevents solids flowing into the leaching bed. The leaching bed will then siphon the liquid before it returns to the soil.

Have your tank pumped out when necessary; every 3-4 years is recommended. Conduct routine inspections around your home to ensure your system is trouble free.

You may have trouble if; the grass over the system is unusually green or spongy to walk on, toilets, showers and sinks take longer to drain, you can smell occasional sewage odors after rainfall and or you notice a gray or black liquid surfacing in your yard or backing up through fixtures in your home.



## NORTHERN Disposal & Sanitation

[www.northerndisposal.ca](http://www.northerndisposal.ca)



### 'Pumping for Patients'



Septic pumping for local cancer care programs.



## CLPOA Accepts E-transfers!



CLPOA is set up to receive online transfers for payment of membership dues and donations.

Interac e-transfers can be sent to: [info@clearlakepropertyowners.com](mailto:info@clearlakepropertyowners.com)  
*Please be sure to send a separate email with the security question answer.*



Special thanks to Cindy Parker for this beautiful shot!