

Clear Lake Newsletter

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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
info@clearlakepropertyowners.com



Calendar 2016 Contest

We are looking for new photos for our upcoming calendar! If you think you have a fabulous photo that would be perfect for our 2016 calendar please send it to info@clearlakepropertyowners.com

Please send only landscape photos of our beautiful Clear Lake! No photos of individuals please. We look forward to seeing your photos!

Emsdale Fire Hall

Mayor Norm Hofstetter, the Mayor of the Township of Perry called a special emergency meeting on August 24th to talk about the results of the engineering report for the fire hall.

Kip Coggins, P. Eng. of Kontek Engineering Ltd was retained by the Township to conduct a review of municipal buildings.

The current condition can be condemned by fire code issues and it has been clearly stated in the report that the hall is unsafe.

During the meeting it was decided that the Emsdale fire hall

needs to be closed immediately. It will no longer be in use to firefighters, staff or the public. The Township will be still providing fire services to the residents of the Township of Perry.

In the meantime, firefighters will respond from the Public Work Facility located at 86 Old Government Road, Emsdale until Council can find a more permanent solution.

For more information please contact Beth Morton (Clerk for the Township of Perry) at (705) 636-5941

**Editor: Caitlin Roberts
 Communications**

President's Message –Fall/Winter 2015

Hello Lake Lovers!

This is my first CLPOA Presidents' message. I want to thank the current board in supporting me in assuming this role. To introduce myself, I am Geoff Pantling, married to Brenda Pantling and have a daughter Virginia. We are coming up to our 20th year on the lake. I consider myself semi-retired operating a small farm with my wife. I have been a CLPOA board member for two years in the role of Treasurer.

We have a great board of Directors this year who are very engaged in the health of our lake and the concerns of our membership.

Several initiatives are being run this year some old some new. Ron Cox is heading up the water quality testing and results have been published on the website. Doug Sartell arranged Benthic testing this year. Debbie Dale is doing a great job working as our municipal affairs liaison. Gina Newhall is our secretary and chairperson of the lake stewardship committee and membership director. Danny Pattison is looking after fundraising. Kipling Campbell is working on lake stewardship committee and our water guru. Ken Core is also on the lake stewardship committee and our

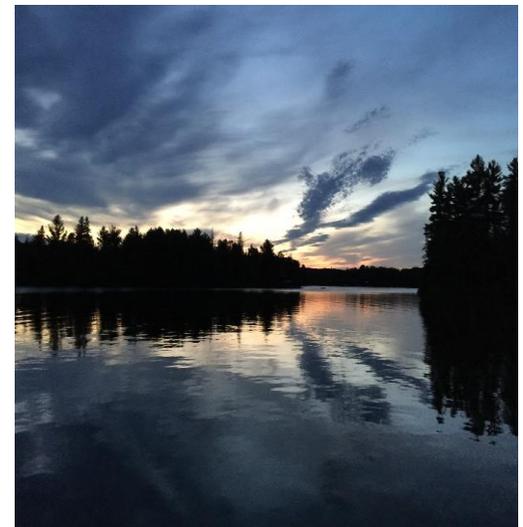
Commercial owner's liaison. We are also working with Oceans & Fisheries Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources to find solutions to the water issues we saw in 2013 and 2014 and 2015.

The lake water level has dropped this year and is causing some concern. Once we have the recommendations from the government ministries we can move ahead with a solution that will hopefully minimize vast fluctuations in the water levels. We know at this point that no work can be done until after May 31st 2016. Our solution needs to accommodate all species.

By the time this newsletter is published you all will have had the opportunity to submit our 2015 member survey. This is an exceedingly important project. The results will guide this board over the next couple of years. As the President of this organization I have no personal agenda here but feel I am responsible for leading the board as the majority of our members wish and the results of the survey will give us the most important concerns of our members.

Thank you all for supporting the CLPOA and wishing you safe adventures on and around our fantastic lake.

-Geoff Pantling
CLPOA President



Novar Hall was recently approved for a government grant! This will now make the hall a more accessible facility.

Doug's Bugs! A day of benthic testing at Clear Lake



All of us who live and cottage around Clear Lake are concerned about the quality of our water. Especially after the Blue-Green Algae bloom last summer. Most of the people on the lake also know that we've had some water quality readings done over the years. We've tested the phosphorous levels, E. coli amounts, the water clarity, and even how good our lake water is at conducting electricity. This year, for the first time we also took a look at small critters that inhabit our lake.

Doug Sartell attempted to get some benthic testing done 3 years ago, but at that time the group that was doing the testing was only working in Muskoka. This year when Jared Stachiw, one of their biomonitoring technicians, contacted Doug to see if he was still interested a resounding "Yes!" was the immediate reply. The date of Aug 11th was set and Doug waited excitedly with his magnifying glass clutched in one hand and eye dropper in the other.

The word benthic refers to the bottom of a lake, ocean or river and the animals and plants that live there. In our case, the benthic testing was specifically looking at the small animals living in the sediment. These include some bugs like dragonflies and damselflies as well as other critters like leeches, worms, mites, daphne and others. So although Doug's Bugs rolls off the tongue nicely, Doug's Macroscopic Invertebrates would be more accurate.

On the morning of the 11th volunteers drifted in with coffees in hand, chatting excitedly as we waited for Jared to explain our task. Each person was given a petri dish with some lake water and an eye dropper. We were to peer into the mucky water and look for critters moving around. If we spotted one we were to suck it up with an eyedropper and put it into another container to be identified. Once it was identified they were put into alcohol to be brought back to the lab. The caveat being we had to find at least 100 critters from each of the three locations Jared got a sample from. We all set to with great gusto, adults and kids alike. We all had a great time sucking up small critters and then trying to figure out if it was a fairy shrimp or caddisfly larva. In the first sample we were overzealous and found 178 specimens, with the next two we stopped much closer to the mark with 110 and 109 specimens respectively. With everything collected, all that was left was for Jared to bring it back to the lab, compile the data and send us the final report.

When the report came in it was essentially a list of 7 numbers that told us how healthy our lake was. Thankfully, Jared also sent along some information on how to understand the data. The data we collected was compared to what they call the Muskoka Average. The Muskoka Average comes from 76 lakes in the Muskoka region that have very minimal human impact and therefore are believed to have the healthiest ecosystems. Therefore it serves as a benchmark to compare other lakes in the Muskoka and nearby areas.

Doug's Bugs! A day of benthic testing at Clear Lake- Continued

The good news is that Clear Lake is pretty comparable with the Muskoka Average. We had the same number of different types of critters, which means the biodiversity of the lake is good. Out of that diversity, 15% was made up of dragonflies, damselflies and caddisflies. While not as high as the Muskoka Average, it is good because these species don't do well in polluted lakes. The percentage of midges were quite low at 6%. This was lower than the Muskoka Average of 12%. This is also quite good because midges are quite tolerant to pollution. If the water is much polluted their percentage is much higher. The third number is called the Hilsenhoff Index and is a reflection of the water quality based on the abundance levels of the different species in the lake. The value can range from 0 to 10, with 0 being a pristine lake and 10 being suitable only for the creature from the black lagoon (okay, not that bad, but not well either). Clear Lake has a Hilsenhoff index of 6.34. This is a little higher on the scale than the Muskoka Average of 6.10. However, in layman's term they are both considered water quality fair. The last 3 numbers all had to do with the percentages of predators, and different levels of herbivores (shredders and collector/gatherers). The data we received is up on our website site if you like to read the whole report yourself.

As a final note it is also important remember this is the first time we've done this sampling. As we continue to do it over time we will have more samples from more locations on the lake. This will give us a more accurate breakdown of the lake's biodiversity and a better overall picture of status of our lake. So next year, if you'd like to get a bit better acquainted with the wee critters of our lake, please come out and give us a hand with Doug's Macroscopic Invertebrates.

-Kipling Campbell
Environmental Portfolio



The CLPOA wants to thank Bill Core for his work on the dye testing septic tanks. Due to his hard work a few Clear Lake residents have decided to replace their systems!



CLEAR LAKE HOME OR COTTAGE

Beautiful level lot. 260` on stunning Clear Lake. One acre lot with home/cottage. Southern exposure, sandy beach and 5` depth at end of dock. All windows have been upgraded. CALL JULIE TO VIEW

JULIE SCHNURR



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 395 Centre St. N Huntsville



Garbage and Recycling

Fall / Winter Hours

Sunday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Monday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday: Closed

Friday: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tires

Recycle your tires. Bring your tires off the rim to the landfill site for FREE!

Clear Bags are now in effect

Resident must use clear bags for garbage, black/dark/tinted/coloured/white garbage bags are not accepted. You are permitted one opaque "privacy" bag inside each clear bag. This bag is to be approximately the size of grocery store bag and can be any colour.

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thecarpetcleaner@vianet.ca**Thanks CLPOA Lake Stewardship Taskforce!**

Septic testing on a voluntary basis is going well. Our member fees have paid for the pricey capsules we ordered. You just pop one in then "watch and see" daily over a short span of time. Since septic system malfunction can severely damage our lake without us knowing, this test is a real plus. Just contact us via email to arrange yours. please.

**Emsdale Agriculture Society:
Christmas Craft & Bake Sale**

On Saturday November 21 2015, the Emsdale Agriculture Society is hosting a great Christmas event. The event starts at 9 am and goes till 2 pm and it is located at the Emsdale Community Centre. There will be door prizes and free admission! Go enjoy the start of the Christmas Season. For more information please call (705)-636-5659 or (705) 783-6096

Clear Lake Beach

Perry Township selected Clear Lake Beach/Park for some upgrades this year. The new dock is a benefit in allowing the community more lake access and has a floating section that seems to adjust to water level fluctuation quite nicely. There are plans brewing for a little more landscape work beyond the erosion control new stone retaining wall and steps. One goal the township has in mind is to make the waterfront accessible for a parent with a stroller yet inaccessible for an ATV so that one's a work in progress!

AVAILABLE CALENDARS

There are 2015 calendars still available for purchase. Christmas is around the corner and could make for a great stocking stuffer! If interested please email

info@clearlakepropertyowners.com



Water Quality Report

Currently on the CLPOA website the water quality report is posted, please go and check it out. The current report brings good news compared to last year when Clear Lake two reported incidences of algae in our lake.

It was a year ago when Clear Lake had a blue-green, Gleotrichia outbreak and as a result the local health office posted a notice to avoid any use of the lake water. Thank goodness there hasn't been any sign of algae this year. As the CLPOA board member responsible for water quality I have engaged in a number of programs to make sure the health of our lake remains good.

The good news is our total phosphorous levels are better than last years and the water clarity has also improved. We had the University of Waterloo Environmental Studies students testing Clear Lake again this summer and we are now starting to build a good database.

Let's all be thankful this has been a good year so far for water quality and continue to be good stewards to act in a responsible way to make sure the health of our lake remains pristine.

-Ron Cox

Water Quality Portfolio

On Site Hospital for Muskoka

The decision of MAHC (Muskoka Algonquin Health Care) Board has caused a stir and our local township has united with the other townships and the towns of Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville to try and keep both Huntsville Hospital and Bracebridge Hospital open. The CLPOA did have petitions for signing at the AGM and can send along the petition to anyone via email. Additionally CARP (Canadian Association for Retired Persons) is also distributing these petitions along with most local businesses

Municipal Affairs Update

The Township of Perry has launched a new website at: www.townshipofperry.ca with a user friendly platform to allow access to a variety of community and governance information. Council Meeting Agendas are posted there along with Minutes of Past Council Meetings, Notices of Public Meetings, Minutes of Public Meetings and much more. The township website is a great source of info for dump hours, bylaw copies, and contacts for Public Works, Building Dept., Bylaw Officer, dog licenses, fireworks prohibitions and more.

Clear Lake Applications relating to development have been on the Perry Agendas regularly this year. An OMB Hearing was held on October 27, 2015 relating to a rooftop entertainment deck on a proposed boathouse at 172 Churchill Garden Road. Our township decided to settle several days prior and make an exception to both the 2014 and 2015 zoning bylaws to allow a deck on a new boathouse despite public opposition to rooftop decks on record over a few years.

-Debbie Dale

1st VP – Municipal Affairs

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Making Clear Lake beautiful for over 35 years!

OPP Marine Patrols & Invasive Species

It has recently come to light that the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) boats- which do move from lake to another are not inspected for aquatic invasive species or even washed at the end of each day or between individual lake patrols.

They were contacted by Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA) and they received a response.

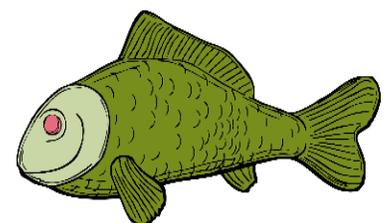
Invasive species is a topic that the OPP discusses at both training sessions for the operations of equipment's and at Regional seminars. The majority of OPP boats are assigned and deployed to local confined areas and not traveling throughout the province. They also confirmed that the OPP boats do not move to one lake to another on a daily basis. The OPP was also provided FOCA's Invasive Species Tips for Boaters. The tips were suggested to be included in the training be used to prevent any future problems.

Second CLPOA Survey Confirms our Direction

Thanks to all members who participated in the second CLPOA Member Survey. We were delighted with the overwhelming response rate of over 75% of our membership.

Unlike the last survey, that was sent to all lake residents, this survey was only sent to our CLPOA members in good standing. This will ensure that we listen specifically to your needs, as the members who have elected this board, and who support the CLPOA with your membership dues and voluntary donations.

Not surprisingly, the majority of our respondents are cottagers, and the majority has been on the Lake for a long time. Two-thirds of respondents are either summer or year-round cottagers. Two-thirds have been coming to the lake for 20 years or more.



Second CLPOA Survey Confirms our Direction- Continued

We asked about what you value, and where you are not satisfied. The "top five list" of things you value is exactly the same as the "top five list" of things that concern you.

Those five things are:

- Water quality
- Being "different from the city"
- Natural beauty
- Peace and quiet/tranquility
- Wildlife and nature.

On this list, protecting wildlife and nature is new to the top five, and replaced being "safe and friendly" from our top five values list, and replaced "party atmosphere" from our top five concerns list.

Because water quality was the single biggest issue on the 2013 survey, we added a new section to this version. It explores attitudes and actions about what we do as individuals to protect water quality. We are delighted that the vast majority of you responded that you have pumped your septic tanks within the past two years. (For those of us who have not, let's please take this as a gentle reminder)

We also explored your thoughts on different actions or sacrifices we could make to improve water quality. There is strong support for organic gardening practices and natural shorelines. There is less agreement on investing in four stroke outboard engines. On the question of eliminating large wake activity, twenty percent of respondents say that they are unwilling to do this.

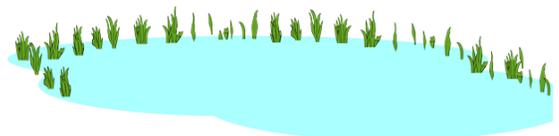
We asked about wake size. Out of 33 responses to this question, we heard the following:

- 10 believe any wake is damaging or annoying
- 11 are OK with sustained wakes up to 6"
- 10 are OK with sustained wakes up to 12"
- 1 is OK with sustained wakes up to 24"
- 1 believes any size wake is OK.

Assuming this sample represents the whole lake, this suggests that if we are creating a 12" wake, we are possibly offending 66% of our neighbours. If we are creating a 24" wake, we are possibly offending 95% of our neighbours.

Over half of us believe that the current lake level is too low. Over a third of us believe that the lake level is just right. The rest have no preference, or believe that the level should be allowed to fluctuate.

The top priorities that you have identified for board focus are: Protecting Water Quality, Protecting Shorelines and Wetlands, and Protecting Real Estate Value.



Second CLPOA Survey Confirms our Direction- Continued

EXTRA COMPANY?

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algonquinwoods.com

Allen's Landing

(705) 787- 5324

allenslanding.ca

Booker's

(705) 636-5354

clearlakecottageresort.com

Clearview

(705) 636-1040

clearviewcottages.com

Cutter's Cove

(705) 636-5070

cutterscovecottages.ca

Maple Brae

(705) 636-5390

maplebraecottages.com

Journey's End Lodge

(705) 636-5505

Hope's Foodland (Novar)

(705) 789-1777

Mon-Thurs: 8:30 A-7:00 PM

Fri: 8:30 A-8:00 PM

Sat: 8:30 A-7:00 PM

Sun: 8:30 A-6:00 PM

You value the many ways that we communicate as a community, and the vast majority of us are now enabled to participate in electronic channels. Several have expressed the desire to keep our social media exchanges respectful. (Note that the "Friends of Clear Lake" Facebook page is not run by the CLPOA. Also note that it is a "members only" page, so the conversations there are not visible to casual observers or potential property buyers).

If anyone is interested in viewing the detailed results of the survey, the full survey presentation is available from the CLPOA Website. Thanks, again, for providing the Board with this valuable input. We will continue to leverage this data as we work to serve you better, and to advocate for Clear Lake with the different levels of government.

-Bruce Dow

Treasurer

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 Please be sure to send a separate email with the security question answer.



Photo: Ken Core

Your 2015-16 CLPOA Executive Members:

President - Geoff Pantling

1st VP - Debbie Dale - Municipal Affairs Portfolio (Past President Elect)

2nd VP - Ron Cox - Water Quality Portfolio

Secretary - Gina Newhall and Chair - Lake Stewards Committee

Treasurer - Bruce Dow

Director - Kipling Campbell - Environmental Portfolio

Director - Danny Pattison and Chair - Fundraising and Social Committee

Director - Caitlin Roberts -

Communications

Director - Ken Core - Commercial Owners Liaison

Thank you to all who took time to take the CLPOA survey! We thank you for the feedback!

