

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association
February 2010 Newsletter

President's Message - Bob Campbell

Good news! This year our Annual Regatta will be held on the August 1st Holiday Weekend! In recent years Moorelands Camp scheduling has necessitated holding our Regatta on another weekend, resulting in fewer members attending. This year the camp schedule enables us to hold our Annual Regatta at 11.00 am on SATURDAY JULY 31, with a rain date of Sunday August 1. Mark that on your calendar now. Thank you very much Moorelands! After the Regatta, the Fireworks Display in Marina Bay will start at dusk.

The KLCA Annual General Meeting will be held in the Dorset Recreation Centre on Saturday July 10, at 10.00 am. This is the year for our bi-annual election of Directors, and as usual we will have vacancies. If you are interested in increasing your involvement with your lake neighbours, and benefiting the lake, please contact info@klca.org or direct to re.campbell@sympatico.ca.

At last year's AGM it was suggested the Executive obtain outside legal opinion on the legality of the Water Ski Course in Moorelands Bay. We considered this, and decided not to spend Association money this way. Our Director of Boating researched the permit requirements for a legal water ski course, and this installation does not have one. Details of the proper procedure will be on our web site and in Reflections. At the AGM it was moved that we make a significant donation to the Dorset library, provided the money came to Dorset. We have deferred action on this, since the future of the Dorset Library is still in jeopardy as usage continues to be low, with a decision expected this spring. There is also an issue with donations going to any Haliburton library. It was also noted at the AGM that a wireless internet provider is interested in servicing Kawagama, and our web site contains information for you to register your interest, to help justify the investment.

Last fall we received a privacy complaint, resulting from a member using information from Reflections for a commercial mailing. Your Executive spent considerable time reviewing all considerations, has made some changes to our procedures and our Privacy Policy, which is available on our web site. We will continue to publish member names, home addresses and both telephone numbers. Many members use this as a local telephone directory, and it is invaluable in emergency situations when a neighbours' boat sinks, or their cottage is vandalized or burns. We will add a reminder on the Membership List that it is for the benefit of KLCA member's personal use, and commercial use to offer products or services for sale is prohibited. In the past we asked you to sign annually for permission to print your personal information. We have confirmed that we can continue to print in subsequent years based on your initial signature, eliminating the significant workload for our Membership Director to chase signatures. You may still want to sign annually to confirm your approval. We recommend you include your email address (which is not printed anywhere), in order to receive up to date information by email.

Speaking of email, we are just finishing an email survey of opinions on boathouses. A proposal was made for a wet slip boathouse in Dysart Township, where only dry land boathouses are permitted. In our original Lake Plan survey, there was a strong opposition to wet slip boathouses. To establish a current updated position of our members, we sent out a brief email survey. A majority of recipients have replied, and when the survey is complete and results tallied, we will report back via email and post the results on our web site.

I encourage you to read the rest of this newsletter. In addition to normal reporting, it includes an update on Lake Plan activities since inception. There are also opportunities for you to participate in new programs installing loon nests, reporting loon sightings, attending astronomy nights identifying the stars, and taking a day canoe trip through small lakes to the south.

Enjoy your cottage and all the Kawagama activities in 2010!

Treasurer's Message - Andy Gort

In spite of the recession, financially, 2009 was a successful year for the KLCA. You, our members, came through with the renewal of your membership, generous donations and, in addition, support from the local business community was outstanding. We were also able to hold the line on our expenses thanks to the efforts of our KLCA executive and as a result ended up in the black for the year, so avoiding having to tap into our reserves. As a result we should be able to manage 2010 with our membership fees at \$35 (\$45 if you request your copy of Reflections mailed). I look forward to presenting to you our official financial report at the next AGM in July.

Committee Updates

KLCA LAKE PLAN REPORT CARD - Eric Millar and Chuck McDonald

Background - At the 2002 Annual General Meeting of the Association, approval was given to develop a Lake Plan, and responsibility for the project was given to a committee headed by Chuck McDonald. A few weeks later an extensive survey was sent out to all residents. The response rate was encouraging, and the results reported in Reflections 2003. The Lake Plan was adopted by the members and published as a separate document in 2004. In addition a smaller survey was carried out that year.

It is probably reasonable to ask at this point where we are at the moment. Have we made any progress and is the Lake Plan alive, or is it collecting dust on some shelf? In 2006, a Lake Plan Committee was struck to provide a forum for discussion for Directors with the following mandates, and common interests:

- Lake Partners Program
- Lake Levels
- Water Quality
- Environment
- Community Relations
- Fisheries

Boating is certainly another area of great interest, however some limitations had to be placed on the committee, otherwise it could become almost unmanageable.

SINCE 2002

Lake Partners Program - The great value of this program, which is administered by the MOE, is the length of time that it has functioned on Kawagama Lake. Data which include measurements of water clarity, phosphorus levels and water temperature gathered over many years provides information which is invaluable in creating a profile of the health of the lake. Although there are many other studies that can be employed to further enhance the profile, the MOE is satisfied that Kawagama Lake, compared to other Ontario lakes, continues to enjoy good health. The question is '*How can we make sure that this state of affairs continues in the future?*'

Water Quality - The quality of Kawagama and Bear Lake water is generally considered to be excellent. This probably has more to do with the type of lake and its location within the surrounding landscape than with any specific measures taken by residents. There certainly can be no question, however, that people can and do have a negative effect on their surroundings. With this in mind it was decided to undertake a study of bacterial levels in Bear and Kawagama Lakes in order to establish a base line for possible future comparison. With this in mind, samples were taken in the summers of 2007, 2008, 2009, and tests carried out for total coliforms and e-coli by a provincially certified lab. The results were, as you might imagine, very encouraging and will be reported in detail in a future edition of Reflections.

Lake Levels - While the Lake Plan was being developed, and on a different front, the KLCA was identified as one of the stakeholders in the development of a new water management plan for the Muskoka watershed. The importance of this exercise was recognized from the start and the KLCA took an active part in the process. Negotiations at times were difficult but finally we were able to gain some ground, and the Plan which came into effect in 2004 has proven to be of benefit, in spite of some problems along the way. The main achievement has been the improved communication between the KLCA and the MNR. They know who we are, what our priorities are, and realize that they will hear from us should water levels fluctuate significantly from the agreed to norms. The current Plan will remain in force until at least 2014.

Community Relations - Maintaining contact with our two communities is an ongoing and never ending process. Our Lake Plan was one of the first to be completed not only in Haliburton County but also in all of Muskoka. Both municipal governments were approached

and welcomed this new initiative. This has led to continuing cooperation at all levels. As a result we are frequently invited to comment on issues affecting our community. By-laws dealing with maintenance of a natural shoreline vegetative buffer on all shoreline properties are a prime example. The recent debate re boathouses, of which most of you are aware, is another. Monitoring potential development is another.

Fisheries - The previously mentioned Muskoka Water Management Plan outlined two initiatives which directly affect Kawagama Lake. The first was to reduce the winter draw down to prevent lake trout fry from possibly being left high and dry in mid March. The second was to identify Kawagama Lake as a test lake for assessing the state of the fishery. With this in mind, spawning grounds were surveyed and documented. In addition, a Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN) program, carried out by MNR personnel, has taken place on the lake. Efforts have also been made to assess the level of fishing activity on the lake. Contact with fishery personnel at the MNR has also improved significantly.

Environment - We must acknowledge that the world is a much different place than that of 2002. The message that was delivered in the 2004 Lake Plan and the 2005 Dockettalk program surely must have reached everyone by now. The question of course is - Is everybody listening and is everybody doing their part to safeguard this special place called Kawagama and Bear Lakes? There is no beginning and end to the process. The KLCA must continue to place Lake Plan principles high on its agenda.

Boating, Navigational Aids and Marinas - While boating safety is constantly a priority, two recent events deserve mention: 1) The federal government's program for mandatory boater permits hopefully will improve the safety awareness of the average boater; 2) The marina industry has instituted certification for marinas that exercise sound environmental practices. Happily, both of our marinas are currently certified.

It should also be mentioned that the original Lake Plan Steering Committee undertook to address immediately the most frequently mentioned irritant on the lake which was boat racing by fast noisy boats. A carefully worded letter was written to all known operators of such craft. We were most pleased and appreciative that those boat owners complied with the suggestions that we made to ensure safer, more courteous and quieter operation of their boats. Our sincere thanks for their assistance.

In order to document the changes in our community since the surveys of 2002 and 2004, and so seek your input regarding what remains to be done, and how to proceed, a new survey will be developed and sent out to you shortly. Please take the time to respond. We are, to some extent, at a crossroads and need your assistance if we are to move forward.

Fisheries - Jennifer Gilland

By now several of you will have ventured out onto the ice and tried your skill at ice fishing. Points to remember when fishing through the ice: Always ensure you have a fishing license with you, a measuring tape and know the current regulations for the body of water you are on.

The MNR has confirmed that their Conservation Officers will be on patrol (remember from Reflections...they have dogs and helicopters now!) Your Outdoor Card is only valid if **BOTH** the expiry date on the front of the card **AND** the expiry date of the license (either a tag on the back or a paper copy of e-license) are currently valid.

2010 Fishing Regulations are available on-line at:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LetsFish/index.html>

The following is a summary covering Kawagama, Bear, and Livingstone Lakes*:

- Only one line may be used when angling through the ice
- Lake Trout between 40-55 cm (15.7 - 21.7 inches) **MUST** be released

Kimball Lake continues to be closed during the winter months (Lake trout season is the 3rd Saturday in May until September 30.)

* Ensure you check the Regulations for any other important information

Keep safe and enjoy your catch!

ENVIRONMENT - Adam Rosso

Cooler temperatures, ample precipitation and cloudy skies put a damper on many of the activities planned for last year. Despite the less than stellar year when considering weather, the KLCA was able to build and launch three Loon nests. The Loon nest building activity saw KLCA volunteers help collect supplies, build, and then launch the nests. A big thank you to all the volunteers and both marinas for their help and participation! Let's hope the locations we anchored the nests are suitable and attract nesting families of Loons this spring. If you are interested in building your own Loon nest please head to our web site or refer to the 2009 Reflections.

Continuing with our Loon program this year, we plan on joining Bird Studies Canada's "Canadian Loon Lake Survey". Volunteers will record sightings of Loons across Kawagama and will report their finds as part of the Canadian wide study. No experience is required and it is a great way to get young people involved in the health of our lake's ecosystem. If you are interested in being part of the assessment please contact Adam Rosso at adamKLCA@yahoo.ca for additional information.

There was a great interest in the Astronomy night that **ALMOST** happened last year. It rained on both planned dates. Due to the positive response last year, the KLCA will plan to have at least two nights again this year with planned rain dates accordingly. The observation nights will include a tour of all heavenly bodies including the planets, star clusters, nebula, and hopefully galaxies. The observation nights will have at least one large telescope. If you fancy yourself as an amateur astronomer and have a telescope or set of binoculars at the cottage, please bring them along! Please check both marinas and our website for dates.

The KLCA is also planning a day canoe trip into a few of the lakes south of Kawagama. We are planning on starting at the boat launch located on the north end of Herb Lake. This is a beautiful little lake on the south side of Kawagama Lake South. The guided trip will include a picnic lunch, a plant identification scavenger hunt, swim and other relaxation activities. All participants will need to bring their own canoe, PFD, and paddles. The date is not set yet so please watch for additional information on our web site or at the marinas. Registration will be required so please email adamKLCA@yahoo.ca and indicate how many participants will be attending.

If you have any other suggestions on what volunteer programs you'd like to see the KLCA organize please contact us and we'll help put it all together!

WATER QUALITY - Jennifer Watson

2009 Bacteria Testing

Our bacterial testing program was continued in 2009 expanding on the program we carried out in 2008. We now have a substantial baseline of data for total coliforms and e-coli. The KLCA's water quality objectives continue to be 100cfu/100mL for total coliforms and 10 cfu/100mL for e-coli. These are the same objectives that have been adopted by the Muskoka Lakes and are both significantly stricter than provincial standards. As reported in Reflections, in 2008 eight sites were sampled from various locations across Kawagama and Bear Lakes on four separate occasions during the summer. In 2009 some of the same sites were re-visited and others were added for a total of ten sites tested on four separate occasions during the summer. Samples were again tested at Central Ontario Analytical Laboratory in Orillia. Results were overall quite favourable with an average total coliform result of 6.8 cfu/100mL for all samples and an average e-coli result of 2.2 cfu/100mL for all samples. More information will be available in Reflections.

Have you been to the Fireworks event on Kawagama? This year it's on July 31st -- check out this and other fun events happening this summer on the Lake - go to www.klca.org

WEB SITE - Pat Boyd

The KLCA has a new web site! Please refer to it frequently for the latest news and events taking place on Kawagama. Send in your pictures to info@klca.org if you'd like them included!

www.klca.org

BOATING SAFETY - Rob Walisser

Pleasure Craft Operators Cards are now mandatory for all vessel operators, regardless of the size of the vessel or the operator's birth date. If you haven't already done the test and received your card, contact either of the two marinas on Kawagama Lake for testing opportunities. Note to our American cottagers - while there are exemptions for non-

Canadian residents, you need to review them to determine if they apply to you. For example, to be exempt from requiring this card, you must be operating a boat less than 45 days per year in Canadian, and it cannot be a Canadian licensed boat. Other factors apply, so your simplest option probably is to just get the card.

For the past five years, Mountain Trout House Marina and Old Mill Marina have joined together to host an annual Kids Safety Day on the lake, providing the younger crowd with an opportunity to receive a few hours of safety instructions followed by a Pleasure Craft Operators Card exam. The two marinas are happy to continue to host this event if there is enough demand on the lake, and to expand it, like in 2009, to include an adult course also. Contact one of the two marinas if you or your family members are interested in attending such a course.

On a non-Boating Safety note, the two marinas, in conjunction with the KLCA, are looking at starting a Kristmas on Kawagama annual event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 26th. Details will follow, but starting thinking about how you might decorate up either your boat, or your dock, with a Christmas in June theme!

MEMBERSHIP - Marion Michinsky

At present, we have almost 500 members out of 1000 cottages on the lake. We always need more! Where multiple generations of a family enjoy your cottage, we would encourage each generation to join independently. Check with your neighbours and suggest they join the KLCA. All these additional "voices" will strengthen our Association.

We also need volunteers. Last year, the regatta was almost cancelled because we didn't have enough people to share the workload. If you can spare some time and help us out, it will ensure the regatta is the success we all expect it to be. Please email either myself at membership@klca.org or info@klca.org stating you area of interest. You can also indicate your willingness to help on the renewal form. If we all help a little, no one is overburdened.

We have added a publication deadline on the renewal form this year. Don't be disappointed that your information didn't make Reflections - send in your renewal by April 15th!

Here's to magic on Kawagama and Bear Lakes in 2010!

COMMUNICATIONS - Leslie Henderson

KLCA has several communication venues:

- Annual General Meeting - July 10, 2010 - 10:00 am Dorset Rec. Centre
- Annual Newsletter in February
- Web Site - www.klca.org
- Emails - info@klca.org for notes to KLCA

- Annual Reflections Yearbook - available July 1, 2010
- Annual Regatta - Moorelands Camp in July 31, 2010 (rain date Aug 1)
- Canada Post - Box 98, Dorset, ON POA1E0
- Surveys - as required
- Face to Face - when you see a board member on the lake or about town!

We strongly encourage members to contact us by email anytime if there is something that you'd like to discuss or have more information about!

In addition to the new web site, we are planning to use email more frequently to communicate matters of importance to members. Currently we have email addresses for about 55% of our members. Please make sure we have your current contact information in our master file by sending a note to membership@klca.org when your contact information changes. This will help reduce the workload associated with invalid emails, reduce our mailing costs, and improve our ability to communicate with you effectively.

If you have ideas or input about our communication tools and formats, please send a note to info@klca.org and we'll consider all ideas that will improve communication.

REFLECTIONS YEARBOOK - Patricia Davidson

The 2010 yearbook is underway and will be available for pick up at Mountain Trout House and Old Mill Marinas **after** the July long weekend. Watch the web site www.klca.org for details of other location pickup dates and times. Please send any pictures, stories, recipes and ideas to me at info@klca.org before March 1 2010.

In addition to your favorite cottage pictures, we are looking for photos of cottagers' artwork from old and young alike.

ADVERTISING - Don Abel

If you have a business that you would like to promote, please contact me to place an ad in the annual Reflections Yearbook. We do have space for additional advertising and our rates are a very good and are outlined in the web site www.klca.org. If you place an ad in Reflections, we'll create a link to your web site from our web site for free! If you don't have a business to promote, we encourage you to support our advertisers as they help make the annual yearbook possible!

<p>Art on the Dock Sun. July 25th 1:00 to 3:00 PM</p>
<p>Fun time for cottagers of all ages... kids too! Artists, writers, musicians, photographers, cottage crafters. Bring your treasures to your dock and share them with your cottage friends and new neighbours. or hop in your boat, kayak or canoe and cruise or paddle around your bay or take an adventure to a new part of Kawagama and just enjoy an "Arts" afternoon.</p>

The Value of KLCA Membership

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association membership is open to any permanent or seasonal resident of Kawagama and Bear Lakes. A vibrant membership will provide a strong and clear voice for sustaining and preserving these lakes for current and future generations.

How The KLCA Represents Your Interests:

Lake Plan Management: Working with various environmental and government agencies, we influence policies regarding water quality, fisheries, lake levels and shoreline protection. The Official Lake Plan is available on our web site, and we encourage you to read and keep a copy of this informative and important document.

Political Advocacy: We represent our members at local and provincial councils and governments on matters of concern to our members and any issues that will affect the well being of our Lakes.

Boating: We monitor, assess and make recommendations for recreational and safety issues on the lake and adjacent lands. Navigational maps are available at both marinas. In addition to sponsoring safe boating instruction the association also ensures that we **install and maintain water navigation markers** for your safety.

Planned Development: The association tracks proposed development in the area and actively participates in the planning process when the interests of Kawagama and Bear Lake cottagers and residents are concerned.

Environmental Awareness: KLCA supports members with a depth of educational material regarding environmentally responsible choices for cleaning products, natural plantings, shoreline restoration, landscaping, and septic system management.

Financial Support of Programs: KLCA makes significant contributions in support of local activities and programs such including but not limited to Dorset Fire Department, FOCA, WRAFT, Kawagama/Bear Fireworks event,

How Your KLCA Informs and Involves Members:

Reflections: An annual yearbook highlighting topics of interest, family fun, history of the lake and its people, events, reference and helpful hints for cottagers.

The Annual General Meeting: Held in July at the Dorset Recreation Centre - affords members the opportunity to meet with the executive team, friends and neighbours, and features a keynote speaker on a relevant and timely topic.

President's Newsletter: An annual update of the current KLCA topics and events.

Our website: www.klca.org provides the most current information on our initiatives and events, including directors' status updates. It also links to important sites of interest to cottagers/residents. You can even link to a web cam and weather sites in the local area.

Annual Regatta: Fun activities for the whole family. Swim & Canoe races, beach program for kids, trophies, food, prizes - it's an event not to be missed. The Regatta is held at Moorelands Camp - Watch the website for time and date.

Participation: KLCA gives you an opportunity to share your concerns and ideas. By volunteering your time and talents, you can personally impact the future of our lakes.

Privacy: The privacy of our members is protected at all times and personal information is never shared or sold.

Dorset Fire Department Donation: KLCA makes a donation of \$5.00 for every member to the Dorset Fire Department, who is always available to protect you in case of fire, or to provide first response.

Supporting FOCA: KLCA is a dues paying member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations), who actively support programs to benefit Cottagers' Associations. For example they have developed a new insurance program that provides us (and road associations) with liability insurance at a lower premium than previously available.

KLCA Supports WRAFT: KLCA is also a dues paying member of WRAFT, Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation. This organization has spearheaded the fight for relief from ever escalating assessments of waterfront property.

Join today - fill out application form on reverse side - additional applications on web site www.klca.org.

KAWAGAMA LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
P.O. Box 98 Dorset, Ont. POA 1E0
www.klca.org

Thank you for becoming a member of Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association.
The membership fee is \$35.00 OR \$45.00 if you want to receive *Reflections* by mail.
Reflections will be mailed at the end of August. (\$10 extra covers postage)

The membership period is January to December. Members can pick up *Reflections* at Mountain Trout House Marina or Old Mill Marina after the July long weekend.

Where multiple generations of a family enjoy your cottage, we would encourage each generation to join independently. The additional "voices" will strengthen our Association. Additional membership applications are available on our website.

Please note: Freedom of Information Legislation requires your permission to publish personal information. WE MUST HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE on file TO PUBLISH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE #'S IN REFLECTIONS

YES ___ I CONSENT TO MY NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS BEING PUBLISHED IN REFLECTIONS. (I understand this information is used only for KLCA communication and is not shared or sold for any other purpose)

Consent Signature: _____

NO ___ DO NOT PUBLISH MY PERSONAL INFORMATION IN REFLECTIONS.

MEMBERSHIP:

Our publication deadline is April 15- after which we can't guarantee your inclusion in Reflections

Deleted: ¶

Print Name: _____

New Membership _____ Membership Renewal, with changes required _____

NAME: _____

LAST First

SPOUSE: _____

LAST FIRST

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN

PROV/STATE _____ POSTAL Code/Zip Code _____

COTTAGE PHONE: _____ HOME PHONE: (_____)

KAWAGAMA / BEAR LAKE

ADDRESS: _____

This is your 9-1-1 address

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

To receive KLCA information bulletins. We do not publish or share email addresses

As you can no doubt appreciate, any organizations' success depends on its volunteers. Please sign below if you wish to share your talents and time with KLCA:

Name: _____ Area of interest _____

I wish to volunteer with KLCA. Please have someone call me to discuss my preferences and time availability.

I would also like to make an additional donation to support KLCA programs

\$ _____

Additional Donation: Please make cheques payable to KLCA