

KLCA Newsletter - Winter 2020
"Preserve the Heritage"



President's Message

Happy 2020 on behalf of the KLCA Board of Directors!

As we say good-bye to a decade, I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the efforts we are engaged in to meet our mission of Preserving the Heritage.

The KLCA Board is a group of dedicated volunteers who work throughout the year. This past year, we have tracked municipal issues and intervened when necessary on issues that matter to Kawagama Lake residents, such as the proposed expansion of the sewage lagoon in McClintock. We continue our successful communication efforts through our newsletters, newsflashes, website and through moderating our Facebook page, which now has close to 2500 members. We also follow lake levels and discuss matters with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as needed. We are responsible for the always successful and well attended fireworks and regatta, with sincerest thanks to all the volunteers that make these events possible. And of course, no new year is complete without the annual *Reflections* publication that comes out as the new cottaging season begins each year.

This year we teamed up with Trent University to establish a biological monitoring program in Kawagama Lake. Environmental science is increasingly using water quality results as a way to track health of aquatic ecosystems, and increasingly

moving towards measuring biota (animal and plant life) in systems to assess the health of the aquatic systems. Our monitoring program will measure benthic invertebrates (small insects that live in the sediment of the lake that are essential for fish and overall aquatic health) at a number of locations on the lake. More to come on this new initiative in upcoming publications.

As we look forward to 2020, the KLCA Board of Directors wishes everyone a very happy new year, and another year of enjoyment of our piece of paradise.

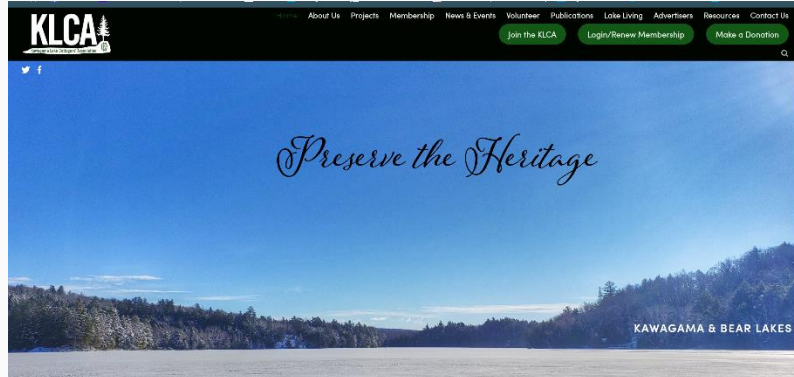
Kathleen Hedley
KLCA President



It's Time to RENEW Your KLCA Membership for 2020!

The best way to renew is online at www.klca.org. You will have a choice to renew for one year, or for multiple years, or to set the automatic renewal feature. Alternatively, you may have received an auto-renew message from the KLCA reminding you to renew by clicking on the website, <https://klca.wildapricot.org/>. It's

safe and easy to click on this link if you received it. If you prefer to pay by cheque, please click this link to access the mail-in form: <https://klca.org/membership-1> (For step-by-step renewal details, please see the end of this newsletter)



Your Membership Makes These Programs Possible.

Lake Plan Management— Working with various environmental and government agencies, we influence policies regarding water quality, fisheries, lake levels and shoreline protection.

Political Advocacy — We represent our members at township and county government meetings and on various provincial ministry councils on matters of concern to our members, including 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 lakes and adjacent lands. Navigational maps are available at both marinas. In addition to sponsoring safe boating instruction, the association also installs and maintains 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 — The KLCA supports members with educational materials regarding environmentally responsible choices for cleaning products, natural plantings, shoreline restoration, landscaping and septic system management.

Financial Support of Local Programs — The KLCA makes significant contributions in support of local programs, activities and associations. These include but are not limited to FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations), CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association), and other various community initiatives.

Reflections — Our annual yearbook, *Reflections*, is included with every membership, and is mailed to your home prior to the May 24 long weekend.

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

Winter and Summer Newsletters — A Winter Newsletter is e-mailed out to past and present members; only KLCA members receive summer Newsflashes by e-mail once a month in June, July, August and September to keep them updated on what's happening throughout the peak months for cottagers.

Our website—Find the most current information on our initiatives and events, including Directors' status updates, at www.klca.org. Our site also links to important sites of interest to cottagers and residents. You can even check out the weather on the lake via webcam!

Annual Regatta— Enjoy fun activities for the whole family at this popular member event. Swimming and canoe races, a beach program for kids, trophies, food and prizes make the Regatta an event not to be missed. The Regatta is held at Moorelands Camp — watch the website for time and date.

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association membership is open to any permanent or

seasonal resident of Kawagama Lake or Bear Lake. A vibrant membership provides a strong and clear voice for sustaining and preserving these lakes for current and future generations.



It's Almost Time to put *Reflections* 2020 Together!

Do you have a photo, an interesting anecdote, some historical information, or a poem to share in this year's KLCA yearbook? What about an idea for a craft or a day trip, a recipe, or a cottage maintenance tip? In fact, anything you think other people on our lakes might be interested in reading can be included in *Reflections*. Please email all contributions to reflections@klca.org as soon as you can, and no later than February 28. Thanks to all of you who have sent things already!



Flood Advisor Report Addresses Flooding in Muskoka

In response to the floods of 2019, the provincial government completed an independent review of the spring floods in Muskoka and Ottawa, Ontario's current flood mitigation and land use planning policies.

The Flood advisor confirmed that the 42 dams in the Muskoka watershed are not intended for flood control. The management of these dams is controlled through the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

The Muskoka River Watershed has experienced flooding on numerous occasions in the past, including in 1976, 1980, 1985, 1998, 2008, 2013 and most recently, in 2019.

The advisor noted that, "Over the winter, the MNR continued to monitor weather

conditions. To help mitigate the anticipated spring runoff, the MNRF continued to draw down water levels at the dams. There were several rain events that caused water levels to rise over the winter period and the MNRF took measures to continue the drawdown. Lake Muskoka was drawn down to one of its lowest levels in preparation for the rain, snowmelt and warmer weather expected through April. Complaints from the public about low water levels were received in late March 2019.”

He identified significant concern with the investment in new boathouses within Muskoka Lakes that are being approved without regard for the potential damage from flood and ice heaving.

He made a number of recommendations covering flooding, funding, regulations, guidance documents, education, land use planning, emergency response and roles and responsibilities among others. Only one was specific to Muskoka: Recommendation 22: That the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) use the results of the Muskoka Watershed Conservation and Management Initiative to inform any potential future amendments to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan by working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and in the meantime, that the MECP consider whether to encourage the municipalities to establish a conservation authority or request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to restrict development in the floodplains (e.g. Ministerial Order).

NewsBites (MLA - Muskoka Lakes Association) December 2019.

Regatta Planning!

Thank you to all our volunteers and businesses who contributed time and donations making last years regatta a huge success. The regatta would not have happened without you!

If you would like to volunteer and/or make a donation for this coming summer, please contact Kimberley.daries@peelsb.com.



Are Rinse Agents Safe for My Septic System?

A question I am asked frequently is, "Are rinse agents safe for septic systems?"

The first and most simple answer I give is, "Anything that is not completely necessary should not go into a septic system. Septic systems do not remove or hold onto these types of chemicals." A septic system is a biological system only

capable of digesting simple organic materials - like the waste products from our bodies.

What is a dishwasher rinse agent?

Rinse aid is a surfactant that reduces the surface tension of water. Surface tension is the “skin” effect on a droplet that makes it ball up rather than spread out on a surface. Think of droplets of water on a leaf. As a surfactant, rinse aid prevents water from forming into droplets and instead encourages it to drain from the surface in thin sheets. Thus, spots from dissolved minerals left behind from evaporated droplets are diminished.

Rinse aid doesn't actually help in rinsing, rather, it zaps droplets and thus hastens drying and promotes shininess. Rinse aid formulas contain a wide array of chemicals that should not be used in conjunction with a septic system or any other on-site sewage system. In researching the ingredients found in commonly available rinse agents, I discovered a very long and chemically complicated list.

For this article I have focused on one of the most common product brands I'm asked about. The “known” ingredients in this product are as follows:

POLYACRYLATES.

Moderate Concern: biodegradation.

Flammable liquids that are prone to spontaneous polymerization, a reaction in which the acrylate molecules link together to form long, multiple-unit molecules. In commercial production, polymerization is conducted under the action of free-radical initiators, with the acrylates dissolved in a hydrocarbon solvent or dispersed in water by soap-like surfactants.

METHYLCHLOROISOTHIAZOLINONE

Also referred to as MCI, is a preservative with antibacterial and antifungal effects. It is effective against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, yeast, and fungi.

High Concern: The US EPA reports the LC50 value is very toxic to aquatic life.

Some Concern: skin irritation/allergies/damage

Septic systems rely on bacteria.

ALCOHOL ETHOXYLATES (C12-15)

Ethyl alcohol kills bacteria, mainly through two mechanisms: protein denaturation and dissolving the lipid membrane. Proteins, the machinery of the cell, must be dissolved in water in order to properly function. However, the lipids will freely dissolve in ethanol, causing a disruption of the bacterial membrane. Septic systems rely on bacteria.

SODIUM CUMENESULFONATE.

Causes serious eye irritation. May cause respiratory irritation

TETRASODIUM EDTA.

Used a chelating agent, a 1% aqueous solution has a pH of approximately 11.3. Septic systems do not like pH changes and usually operate at pH 7-8.

D&C BLUE 4.

Colours to make it look pretty.

Alternative and septic safe rinse agents if you must:

Ecover Rinse Aid, Seventh Generation Rinse Aid Free & Clear, and Nature Clean Rinse Agent are all plant-based formulas.

Sources: TreeHugger, EWG (Environmental Working Group)

By: Rob Davis, President - EcoEthic. Inc.

Article provided by CHA. (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations)



Ontario Budget Cuts: A Cottage Country Perspective

Cottage Life Media recently wrote an online article called, "**How are Ontario's budget cuts affecting your cottage?**" This article summarizes some of the effects of funding changes.

<https://cottagelife.com/general/how-are-ontarios-budget-cuts-affecting-your-cottage/>

Fireworks Bylaws

The Municipality of Trent Lakes is the latest cottage-country municipality to approve an **Open-Air Burn & Fireworks By-law** effective October 15, 2019. Fireworks are now restricted to a handful of specific days and times. Get a link to this, and other municipal fireworks by-laws, here: <https://foca.on.ca/flying-fire-lanterns-fireworks/>



How to Activate or Renew your Membership Account for 2020.

Option 1: Go to the website www.klca.org.

To access members-only content, you will need to login to your account using a password. To do this, click on the green "login/renew membership" tab. If you do not have a password or if you have forgotten it, click on the "forgot password" link. Enter the email address associated with your account. You will then receive an email that will allow you to reset your password.

Once you have logged into your account you can choose how many years you want to renew your membership for. You will also be able to do the following things:

- Access the Summer Newsletters
- Update your account information, including address changes, credit card changes, privacy settings, make donations etc.

Option 2: Click on the link that will be automatically sent to you (from klca.wildapricot.org) when your membership is about to expire and then follow the steps above.

Option 3: Print out the paper copy of the membership renewal form and mail it back to us along with a cheque. A copy of this form can be found on our website by clicking on the white "membership" tab along the very top of the website or by clicking here <https://klca.org/membership-1/>.