



Photo by Eli Oszlak

Fireworks — The 2016 KLCA Fireworks were a huge success! Hundreds of cottagers enjoyed this awesome event on the Saturday of the August long weekend. And guess what? You have already donated enough to make the 2017 Fireworks a go! THANK YOU for all your donations via the KLCA website and at the marinas! (Photo by Paul Gabura)



Regatta — This year's annual Regatta saw 570 cottagers and their guests enjoy a fun-filled day at beautiful Moorelands Camp. New friendships were formed and old friends reunited while participating in a wide variety of events. Part of the fun of the Regatta is friendly competition, and seventeen championship cups and trophies are awarded each year— they are on display at Old Mill Marina. These trophies chronicle event winners over many years of Regatta history and were all donated by various cottagers over the years. We thought we would share the story behind one of them:



The Colonel George Ellis Memorial Trophy was donated to the KLCA Regatta in 1985 by Mrs. Patricia Brookbank in honour of her late father, who took a strong interest in supporting the competitive swimming of his granddaughters. The Brookbank/Ellis family originally bought their property on Kawagama in 1913 and built the family cottage in 1956, over 60 years ago! This cottage and surrounding property is now being used by a fifth generation of Kawagama cottagers. Over the years, this trophy has been won by family members at least four times. This year's winner was Tara Dolan. Congrats Tara! All other award winners are posted on our website, www.klca.org, and will be published in *Reflections 2017*.

Over 50 volunteers helped make this year's Regatta a success. THANK YOU to everyone who helped out in any way. This excerpt from a thank-you letter from Penny Lewis on behalf of the Duck Bay Road Committee says it best: "...For ourselves, our children and our grandchildren, [the regatta] is the highlight of our summer and the event that brings whole groups of friends and families together for a day of fun, friendly, serious and not-so-serious competition." We hope everyone had a great day and hope to see you all next year! (Photo by Pat Boyd)

Shoreline Restoration Grant Program — You may recall from previous Newsflashes and *Reflections* articles that Kawagama and Bear Lake cottagers interested in naturalizing their shoreline could apply for a \$2,500 grant to help offset the cost of the project. We are excited to announce that two such applications have made it to the short list. We are in the final stages of determining the work that will be done and the timing for one project likely to be completed this fall and the other next spring.

Boating Courtesy Laws — As you are out having fun on the lake, please keep in mind these boating courtesy laws:

- Pleasure craft must stay well clear of swimmers and properties.
- Pleasure craft operators are responsible for their vessel's wash. Make sure you operate your craft in such a manner that your wash does not cause injury to people, erosion of the shoreline, or damage to properties.
- It is imperative that operators use courtesy and common sense so that they do not create a hazard, a threat, a stress, or an irritant to themselves, to others, to the environment, or to wildlife.
- As a pleasure craft operator it is your responsibility to operate your vessel in a safe and prudent manner at a speed from which you can exercise proper and effective action to avoid collision. You must proceed at a speed that is reasonable for the conditions.
- Be aware of local speed limits. In Ontario, for example, it is illegal to travel more than 10 km/h within 100 feet of shore except in some circumstances.
- Among other things, an operator can be charged with Careless Operation, if, as a result of excess speed their wash adversely affects; the shoreline, docks or floats, wetlands, other waterway users such as swimmers, or users of bathing beaches.

You must take into account all other circumstances as you govern the operation of your vessel. (Adapted from Transport Canada Safe boating Guide at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety>)

Editors Note: The KLCA provides material that may be of interest to it's members but it does not enforce any laws.

Starry Summer Night Bash — The following was submitted by the Starry Summer Night Bash Co-Chairs, Brenda Norfolk & Mike Wiebe:

As Starry Summer Night 2016 ended, "we saw the constellations reveal themselves one star at time..."

Our stars included Rob Walisser of Old Mill Marina and his stellar water taxi service and drivers, the talented Sean Fleming and Carol of Il Fornello and their wonderful kitchen team, to the servers (who most of you recognize from your Marinas) Mountain Trout House, Muskoka Brewery and Flat Rock Cellar, Dave Fortier and his team for A/V, Rachel Reid, who pulls the food hall into a beautiful and elegant event space, Ken Robertson the oyster shucker, Dave Goulden, our auctioneer, the Starry Summer Night committee members, Lynda Tilley and the Moorelands Camp counsellors, all our live and silent auction donors, and especially all of our guests. Without your commitment, the camp kids would not have that valuable summer camp experience.

We are happy (overwhelmed actually) at the incredible generosity of the people on this lake. Moorelands is too. We are pleased to let you know we have raised over \$90,000 (donations are still coming in) for Moorelands Wilderness Camp.

Be sure to book early next year as we help Moorelands Camp celebrate 100 years on August 19, 2017.

Grrrrrrr, Bears! — Luckily, bears normally want to avoid humans. Most bear encounters are not aggressive and attacks are rare. But if you feel a bear poses an immediate threat to personal safety, you need to act. Call 911 or local police, if a bear...

- enters or tries to enter a residence
- wanders into a public gathering
- stalks people and lingers at the site

Non-emergency encounters

Call the Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 if a bear is...

- roaming around, checking garbage cans
- breaking into a shed where garbage or food is stored
- pulling down a bird feeder or knocking over a barbecue
- moving through a backyard or field but is not lingering



Bears are a part of the natural environment and are not usually a nuisance. Bears should be respected: never purposely feed bears (or other wildlife) or try to approach them. You can prevent conflicts with bears by following these steps:

1. Limit food sources

- Put garbage in containers that have tight-fitting lids, and put them out only on the morning of garbage day, not the night before (you can purchase specially designed bear-resistant containers, which work best).
- Take garbage to the dump often if you do not have curbside pick-up.
- Frequently wash garbage cans, recycling containers, and lids. Use a strong-smelling disinfectant.
- Fill bird feeders only through the winter months.
- Put away feeders in the spring and instead, offer birds natural alternatives (e.g., flowers, nesting boxes, fresh water).
- Do not leave pet food outdoors, in screened-in areas, or on porches.
- Do not put meat, fish or fruit in composters outside. (Keep scraps in the freezer until garbage day).
- Pick all ripe fruit from trees and bushes and fallen fruit off the ground.
- Remove grease and food residue from barbecue grills, including the grease cup underneath, after each use.
- Inform cottage renters of how to avoid attracting bears to your property.

2. Keep your eyes and ears open

- Travel in groups of 2 or more—bear attacks occur primarily on people who are alone.
- Make noise as you move through areas where visibility is restricted or where background noise is high, such as near streams and waterfalls. Singing, whistling or talking will alert bears to your presence, giving them a chance to avoid you.
- While outdoors, keep your eyes and ears open: scan your surroundings to check for bears.
- Watch for signs of bear activity (e.g., tracks, claw marks on trees, flipped-over rocks or fresh bear droppings).
- If you are out with a dog, leash it—uncontrolled, untrained dogs may actually lead a bear to you.

- Pay attention, especially if you are working, gardening, or berry-picking.
- Occasionally scan your surroundings to check for bears.
- Rise slowly if you are in a crouched position so that you don't startle nearby bears.

3. Take safety precautions

- Carry and have a readily accessible whistle or air horn.
- Learn how to use bear pepper spray and carry it to that it is readily accessible.

If you encounter a bear, stop. Do not panic. Remain calm. Take these steps:

- Quickly assess the situation and try to determine which type of an encounter this might be – sighting, surprise or close encounter.
- Do not try to get closer to the bear for a better look or picture
- Make sure the bear has a clear escape route—don't corner a bear.
- Always watch the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight.
- Get inside, if you are near a building or vehicle.
- Leave the area if you are berry-picking, hiking, camping, jogging or cycling.
- If you are with others, stay together and act as a group.

If the bear does not get closer to you, slowly back away, talking to the bear in a quiet, monotone voice. Do not scream, turn your back on the bear, kneel down, or make direct eye contact. Do not run away, climb a tree, or retreat into water and try to swim away—a bear can do these things much faster and better than you.

If it is a close encounter, yell, wave your arms to make yourself look bigger, throw objects, blow a whistle or an air horn, make noise to try and persuade the bear to leave, and prepare to use bear pepper spray.

If the bear keeps advancing toward you, stand your ground and use your bear pepper spray (if the bear is within seven metres) or anything else you can find or use to threaten or distract the bear. Fight back as if your life depends on it.

(Adapted from MNRF Bear Wise Guide [Ontario Bear Wise](#))

Contribute to Reflections 2017! — As you enjoy your last few days of the season, please send in your photos and stories of life on the lake this summer! We are always looking for:

- photos
- recipes
- articles
- stories
- poems

Send your submissions to Sara at reflections@klca.org. Please send writing as unformatted Word documents or in the body of your email. Send photos by email, Dropbox, or other file-sharing method and provide the highest resolution version available. Or send hard copies to Reflections c/o KLCA, Box 98, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. Don't hesitate to contact Sara with any questions.



Photo by Brian Paul

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