

KLCA

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association

"Preserve the Heritage"

Park Pass

It's Canada's 150th! This country has so much to offer us. Don't forget to take advantage of the free Parks Canada Passes that have been offered for 2017 to help us enjoy our country. It includes unlimited opportunities to enjoy National Parks and National Historic Sites including Bruce Trail, Beausoleil Island, Fundy Bay etc.

Get yours at:
<http://www.comman-desparcs-parksorders.ca>



Happy New Year!

Jim Kaufman, President

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2017. As usual, your Directors have been hard at work over the winter planning for upcoming membership events, while continuing all our duties to help keep Kawagama and Bear Lake and their environments healthy. Some of our upcoming events are listed below.

I think it's worth remembering the uniqueness of Kawagama. It's at the head of the Muskoka watershed, which means that few other lakes flow into our waterways. (Continued on next page)

Upcoming Events

Dorset Snowball Feb 18

Join the fun at the 27th annual Winter Carnival.

www.dorsetsnowball.com

Starry Night Summer Bash Aug 19

The 3rd annual, Moorelands Fundraiser! Live music, food, silent auction and more!

KLCA AGM July 8

Featuring a keynote speaker and an opportunity to talk to fellow cottagers, KLCA Directors and municipal leaders.



Presidents Message cont.

It is the largest lake in the county of Haliburton and the 5th largest inland lake in Central Ontario Cottage country. It has approximately 73 miles of shoreline but only about 1,200 property owners. Many parts of the lake are well over 100 feet deep. Most of the land surrounding Kawagama is still owned by the crown. All these factors contribute to making Kawagama and Bear Lake and their environments pristine, with an abundance of fish, wildlife and clear, clean water. These are commodities that are hard to find today, especially within 3 hours drive from Toronto.

The mission of the KLCA is to “Preserve the Heritage.” We do this with Committees that monitor our Environment with a focus on Water quality, Water Levels and Fisheries. We cooperate with the Algonquin Highlands Township and comment on development and minor variance proposals. We set out and maintain a lake marker system to assist with safe navigation. In order to stay current on lakefront property owner’s issues, our Directors are also Directors on FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottager Owners), CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association), and several MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) committees.

On the community side of things, we hold a family Regatta every year on the August long weekend and are now hosting a fireworks display on the same evening.

We hope you continue to support your Lake Association by renewing your membership. You may also wish to consider joining the Board or one of our committees (see “about us” on the KLCA website).

Best wishes for 2017 and we’ll see you around the lake!



Shoreline Health Study Lake-Wide Results

John McHardy, Ron Schwark & Julia Sutton

You may recall that over the summer of 2015, the KLCA worked with the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association) to study the health of the shoreline around Bear and Kawagama Lakes. The study was completed by two specially trained environmental science university students who were boated around the shorelines of Bear and Kawagama by generous volunteer cottagers and residents. The students used a protocol from Watersheds Canada and Canadian Wildlife Federation’s “Love Your Lake Program” (www.loveyourlake.ca). The study classified the percent of shoreline according to 4 categories:

1. Natural – Shoreline is in its “original” natural state.
2. Regenerative – natural vegetation has been removed in the past but is in the process of growing back to a natural state.
3. Ornamental – All natural vegetation has been removed and replaced with a mowed lawn or other non-native species; structures such as docks, decks, boathouses, ramps, etc. are predominantly present at the shoreline.

4. Degraded – Natural vegetation has been lost; soil erosion, undercutting of the bank, and/or exposed roots or shrubs and trees is significant.

Studies have shown that unless 75% of the shoreline is in a natural state, water quality will degrade over time. There is a strong argument to include the “Regenerative” portion of the lake with the “Natural”, as it is hopefully shoreline returning to its natural state (passively or actively). From a lake health perspective, however, Regenerative shoreline may not provide the same benefits as Natural because:

1. The vegetation has not been growing there as long; therefore roots may not be as well developed or deep.
2. The vegetation may not be as diverse as on a Natural shoreline (e.g. trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, grasses, etc.). This is important, as precipitation should have contact with 3 to 4 levels before it hits the ground. Diverse vegetation also improves fish and wildlife habitat.
3. A Regenerative shoreline typically does not include the fallen logs, branches in the water or shade that provide vitally important fish habitat.

The results for each property on Bear and Kawagama (who did not opt out) were sent **only** to the property owner(s), and privacy has been strictly maintained. For those who opted out their properties were not studied. Lake-wide reports have now been prepared which show the results for each lake as a whole, i.e. all of the individual property reports have been averaged together to generate lake-wide results.

Here are the results for Bear and Kawagama Lakes:

Bear & Kawagama Lake-Wide Shoreline Results

Shoreline Classification	Bear	Kawagama	Average To Date
Natural	36%	58%	48%
Regenerative	41%	23%	27%
Ornamental	23%	19%	24%
Degraded	0%	0%	0%
Natural & Regenerative	77%	81%	75%

Note: Average to Date is based upon 795 km of shoreline around 47 lakes in Haliburton County studied to date.

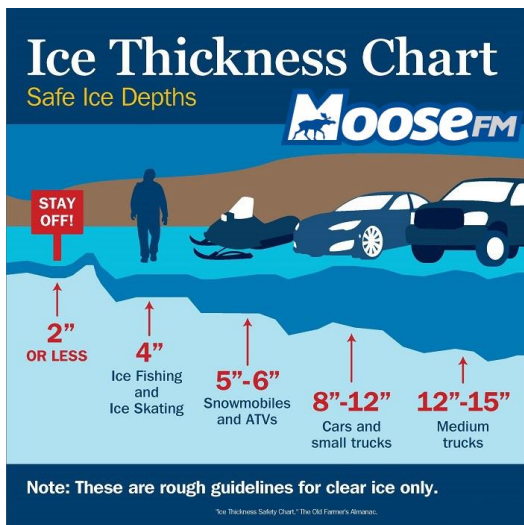
What Does This Mean?

1. The amount of **Natural** shoreline surrounding Bear and Kawagama is significantly less than 75 percent; however, Kawagama is in better shape than the average studied to date.
2. The percentage of shoreline in a **Natural or Regenerative** state for Bear totaled 77% and 81% for Kawagama – both better than the average studied to date.
3. Should we be concerned with these numbers? Not yet. While Regenerative may not preserve water quality as much as Natural, it is still shoreline that is progressing to a Natural state.
4. There is always room for improvement, especially as climate change progresses. If you are interested in improving the health of your shoreline, it’s best to start with areas that have been classified as **Ornamental**. The property report sent to participating property owners provided extensive resource material for ideas on what to do and who to contact for assistance. If nothing else, we should all keep as much of our shoreline in a Natural and/or Regenerative state as possible and try to restore areas that we can. This will help Kawagama and Bear Lakes obtain 75% Natural as we move forward!
5. For grant applications and questions, please contact us at: shoreline@klca.org.

Dorset Community Information

The Dorset Polar Plunge, sponsored by the Dorset Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, will take place during the Snowball Winter Carnival on February 18 at the Old Mill Marina, Dorset. The event starts at 3 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the Dorset Centennial Park Project. To learn more visit us on Facebook: Dorset Polar Plunge.

The Dorset Lions Club has initiated an ambitious Centennial Project to redevelop the Baseball Diamond Park on Main Street starting this Spring. Your participation can make a difference in the creation of a beautiful park and leave a legacy for future generations. To learn more visit us on Facebook: Dorset Lions Club.



Water Management

New guidance from MNRF is intended to address some of the outstanding concerns expressed by waterfront property owners about updating Water Management Plans (WMP's). FOCA has been calling for action on this matter since Summer 2015! See more on this issue and the recent change here: <https://foca.on.ca/water-management-plans-still-in-limbo/>

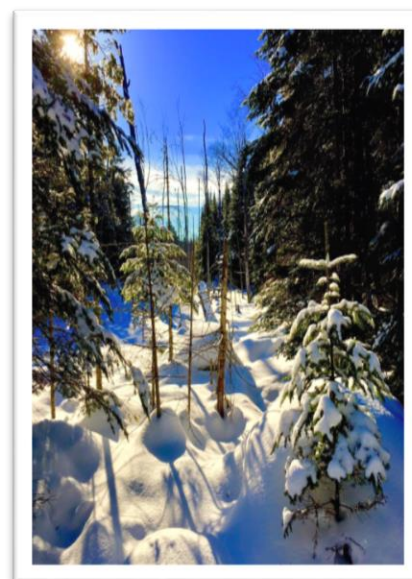
Dock Permit Update

Dock Permitting at MNRF — a process on the mend?

After a 2016 summer season filled with confusion and bureaucracy related to minor shoreline projects in Ontario, the Province has started taking steps to modify the overarching legislation (the Public Lands Act) to allow for more reasonable approaches to waterfront rules.

FOCA and their member groups have been pressing for clarity on dock permitting for over a year now! Bill 27, the Burden Reduction Act, has passed second reading and is now at Committee. FOCA will continue to follow this, and will keep you informed about developments. Review FOCA's efforts and stay up-to-date, here:

<https://foca.on.ca/municipal-authority-over-boathouses-decision/>



Electricity Pricing Update

FOCA News – Dec 12, 2016

Hydro One has filed an updated plan related to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) order to eliminate the Seasonal rate class. The full 196-page report is linked from the OEB website and is entitled:

[HONI SeasonalRateReport UPDATE 20161202](#)

Some highlights include:

- The elimination of the Seasonal Class will result in over 70,000 customers moving to the R1 class and close to 84,000 customers moving to the R2 class, a large majority of whom are low-consumption customers.
 - Hydro One's detailed analysis demonstrates that the move to all-fixed rates alone (already underway) addresses the key concern of some customers that low consumption customers are not paying their fair share of costs.
 - The elimination of the Seasonal Class combined with the move to all-fixed distribution residential rates results in only a small benefit to the 70,000 seasonal customers moving to the R1 class, and very large negative impacts on the 84,000 seasonal customers that would move to the R2 class.
 - Seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R1 rates will see only a small benefit from the elimination of the Seasonal Class (i.e. a reduction of \$7 to \$9 in their bill)
 - Seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R2 rates will see large unfavourable impacts from the elimination of the Seasonal Class (i.e. an increase of about \$65 in their monthly bill). In particular, low consumption seasonal customers will see a 177% increase in their monthly bill if they move to the R2 class with an all-fixed rate.
- Note: About 46% or 70,000 seasonal customers consume less than 150 kWh/month on average over the year.

FOCA will be intervening in these OEB proceedings on behalf of their customers, and will be advising our members ASAP how they can productively contribute their ideas about their pending electricity bills.

Reflections 2017

Help us immortalize your memories in our yearbook! Please send us your favourite photos, stories, recipes, etc., by **Monday, March 6**.

It's Canada's birthday! What does life at the cottage mean to you in Canada's 150th year? How do you celebrate Canada Day on the lake? Do you have any patriotic stories or photos from your cottage? Send them along!

As always, art or writing by KLCA kids is very welcome, as are ideas for outdoor activities or rainy-day crafts.

Send all *Reflections* material to Sara Goodchild at reflections@klca.org, or care of KLCA at Box 98, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. And please feel free to contact Sara any time by email or via the Facebook page if you have any questions about the yearbook.



KLCA Fireworks

Last summer was the first year that the KLCA assumed responsibility for this entertaining evening of fireworks on our beautiful lake. Join us again on Sat., August 5th, for the annual Kawagama Lake Fireworks Extravaganza, which was started by and continues to be supported by, both marinas as well! The KLCA fireworks are possible thanks to your generous donations. Donations can be made online at www.klca.org and at both marinas.



Website

On the Home Page of the KLCA website, you'll find links to Facebook and Twitter, more informative membership renewal options, and an announcement regarding the Annual Fireworks.

Remember — it's easy to renew your KLCA membership on-line and to donate to the annual fireworks as well! Please be sure to refer to all the useful information that can be found at www.klca.org and check back often as updates are posted regularly.



Managing Your Waterfront in a Changing Climate

FOCA is pleased to announce the release of their new publication, created in conjunction with our partners, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Click on the link below to view the digital version of the publication.

<https://foca.on.ca/managing-your-waterfront-property-in-a-changing-climate/>

Renew Your Membership!

Please send in your renewal by APRIL 10 to ensure your information will be included in *Reflections 2017*. We anticipate mailing *Reflections* before May 24th weekend so that you can enjoy it for the whole summer season!

Regatta Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to help out at the KLCA Regatta on August 5, 2017, please let us know.

Contact Us

To contact a member of the KLCA Executive, please send an email to info@klca.org or write to us at KLCA, Box 98, Dorset, ON. P0A 1E0. Please ensure we have your most current mailing and email addresses on file in order to receive updates.

Thanks!

Thanks go to Brian Paul, Cathy Cully, James VanDerToorn and Brenda Norfolk for the beautiful photos in this issue!

The Value of KLCA Membership

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association membership is open to any permanent or seasonal resident of Kawagama or Bear Lakes. A vibrant membership will provide a strong and clear voice for sustaining and preserving the lakes for current and future generations. **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, on various provincial ministry councils and other non-government groups such as FOCA, CHA and other Lake Associations, on matters of concern to our members and any issues that will affect the wellbeing 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, the association also ensures that we **install and maintain water navigational 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 materials 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 as, but not limited to, Dorset Firefighters, Dorset Community Partnership Group, FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers), CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners), local disaster relief, Kawagama/Bear Lake Fireworks event and other various community initiatives.

Reflections: Our Annual Yearbook that comes with every membership.

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

Winter Newsletter and Summer Newsflashes: An annual update of our current KLCA initiatives and events are found in the newsletter and the summer newsflashes are shorter, emailed updates.

Website: www.klca.org provides the most current information on our initiatives and events. 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 and canoe races, beach program for kids, trophies, food, prizes.... Check the website for time, date and details.

Fireworks: Professional fireworks display on the Saturday of the August long week-end. Enjoy from your boat!

