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KLCA Newsletter - July 2018



Welcome to the July 2018 issue of the KLCA Newsletter. We hope you find the information included relevant and interesting. Have a great summer!

Wild Weather and How it Affects Cottage Country.

(Summary from the presentation at the 2018 KLCA AGM.)

At the recent AGM for the KLCA, held on July 7 at the Dorset Community Centre, Heather Auld, Principal Climate Scientist at Risk Science International, gave a fascinating presentation on climate change and the impacts in cottage country.

The presentation built around 3 themes: feeling confused and skeptical of climate change; feeling concerned about what we are adapting to as the climate changes; and how to get ready for the changes.

On the first theme about the science of climate change, Ms. Auld pointed out that there is about 98% agreement amongst scientists that climate change is a reality, yet the media and politicians often give equal time to the 2% of scientists who question the science that indicates that change is a reality. In science, 100% agreement will never happen, and there is no other issue that has as high an agreement among scientists based on the data and facts before them. The climate change science is valid, and the evidence grows stronger every year. Scientists state unequivocally that warming will occur, that the changes will be

irreversible, and that they have 95% certainty that the warming has already begun. Further, current data indicates that climate change is occurring much more rapidly than what the models of 20 years ago predicted.

So then, what will we need to adapt to? Climate models suggest the greatest warming will occur at the pole, where average temperatures will rise by 2.2 degrees C. Across Canada, temperatures will rise an average of 1.6 degrees C. Across cottage country in Ontario, this will mean longer growing seasons, more days above 30 degrees C and milder winters. Scientists are very confident in these predictions. While scientists are somewhat less confident in how climate change may affect precipitation in cottage country, models suggest that more precipitation will fall in cottage country and this will be due to heavier winter storms, and more lake effect snow from the Great Lakes as the lakes will remain open and not freeze as they have in the past. As well, we may see an increasing trend of intense thunderstorms, and an increasing storm rainfall in a 12-hour period.

So what can we do to adapt to the forecast changes? Ms. Auld suggested the following: ensure culverts can withstand heavier precipitation, install adjustable docks, naturalize your shorelines with a healthy buffer of plants to the lake (no lawns), don't leave your boats in the water when you are away, restrict nutrients that may run into the lake, participate in lake stewardship programs and manage debris that will be boating hazards as water levels rise. Community volunteers can collect rainfall data too and input it into the volunteer collection database at <https://www.cocorahs.org/Canada.aspx> .

In summary, climate change is a reality we need to adapt to. Globally, we are

too late to mitigate it, but we don't have choice; we will need to adapt.



A Message from FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)

Thank you for your Association's continued support of FOCA! Please refer to FOCA's Resources page (<https://foca.on.ca/resources/>) for more information and special offers for members.

FOCA is the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, a not-for-profit organization representing volunteer associations and individual property owners all across Ontario. We are your provincial voice. Associations like yours help support FOCA's mission to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario.

Daytime Burning in Haliburton

Starting April 1st, 2018, the fire chiefs of Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al are reminding residents that if you have to burn during the day, you need a permit. Fines for daytime burning can be up to \$500.

The daytime burning ban will be in effect until October 31st.

(As of this mailing, there is a COMPLETE FIRE BAN in all areas of Haliburton and Muskoka. Keep listening to the local radio and checking the KLCA Facebook page for updates.)



Municipal Elections

Municipal elections are held every four years. The next municipal election will be held on October 22, 2018. Please visit the municipal websites for candidate information or other important information regarding the 2018 election.

You should confirm you are on the list to vote in the 2018 municipal and school board elections by going to voterlookup.ca or call 1-866-296-6722.

Voters in the Township of Algonquin Highlands ONLY will be voting by mail.

For more information regarding the municipal election, please contact the Municipal Clerks.

Matt Gower

Municipal Clerk

Phone: 705-489-2379 x233

Email: mgower@algonquinhighlands.ca

Cheryl Coulson

Municipal Clerk:

Phone: 705-457-1740

Email: ccoulson@dysartetal.ca

Boating Courtesy

Some laws that regulate boating in Canada deal specifically with courtesy. Other courtesy items are just that, an attempt to make our waterways safer and more enjoyable for all.

Under the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the operator of a pleasure craft can not operate that craft in a manner that is dangerous to the public.

General

- 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 a 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.

(excerpt)

t for 4.7, Boating Laws and Courtesy <https://www.safeboater.com/learn-the-rules/laws-and-courtesy.html>

KLCA Regatta! Saturday, August 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Join us on Saturday, August 4th at 11:00 a.m. sharp at Moorelands Camp for the annual Regatta! The Regatta is free to all KLCA members. The Regatta has fun and games for all ages including swim and canoe races, beach games, crafts, raffles, a BBQ, and more!

If you would like to be a part of the volunteer team, please email Peter Evans at peter.evans@icondigital.com.

Also, raffle/silent auction prizes are needed. Please bring them with you to the Regatta or drop them off in advance at either marina. Wristbands are required for all attendees, and they are free to members. Guests pay \$5 per person or \$15.00 per family. Please register at the membership desk when you arrive.

Finally, don't forget to bring your paddles, lifejackets, and some cash for food and the great raffle items. Sadly, pets must wait for you at the cottage. See you

there!



Starry Summer Night!

The last 50 tickets left to the sell-out event of the summer can be purchased at www.moorelands.ca/starry

Your attendance and participation in the Starry Summer Night Event helps send 600 children and youth from some of the poorest neighbourhoods in Toronto to camp. Swimming, canoeing, drama, arts and crafts, and overnight tripping are just some of the programs these kids get to enjoy. But besides fun, these kids learn deeper leadership skills necessary for life success. Skills like communication, perseverance, listening, problem-solving and teamwork. These skills set up the children to succeed and thrive at home and in the school yard. And above all, camp is an incredible summer experience these kids would otherwise be unable to enjoy. Starry Summer Night makes this possible because of the support of an engaged community on Kawagama Lake.

Help us launch Moorelands Camp's exciting new Stand UP Paddle board program for the campers by coming dressed for a Hawaiian Beach Party!

Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Time: 6 -11 p.m.

Theme: Hawaiian Beach Party

Cost: \$175 per person. Tickets include 4 drink tickets, light food, live entertainment, exciting live and silent auctions and water taxi service. No boat parking available.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Starry Summer Nights Committee



KLCA Fireworks!

Please join us for the KLCA Fireworks show which starts at dusk in Marina bay on Saturday, August 4th. Come by boat to experience this professionally run show from the water! Please remember to donate at www.klca.org as this

event is entirely dependent on your donations to make it happen.



KLCA – U-Links Proposals

The KLCA is currently working on three project proposals with an organization called U-Links. U-Links has been around since 1999 and works with municipalities, organizations, and businesses of Haliburton County. They have developed and implemented more than 250 different research projects. These projects are established by linking faculty and students from Trent University with the community group in need of a research project. The projects completed by U-Links vary in size and can be single-year projects or can span multiple years. Once a project has been established, U-Links continues to work with the project team to maintain communication in the project. When completed, they keep an archive of the project for further research and community access. There are three project proposals that have been submitted to U-Links. The

following is a summary of the submitted proposals.

Wood Ash Sourcing & Management Plan

Calcium has been declining in Kawagama Lake due to historic and ongoing acid deposition. Since the 1980s there has been a decline in calcium levels in our lakes of nearly 40% and calcium levels in Kawagama have been at critically low levels for the last 10 years. These declining calcium levels have a negative impact on calcium dependent species. Species at the lower tiers of the food chain that are impacted can affect the growth of various sport fish. Wood-ash application is one suggested management tool for improving these calcium levels to pre-1980s base-lines. The purpose of this research is to not only identify areas within Kawagama Lake where the application of wood ash would be most effective to combat calcium loss, but also explore where to source this product, often marketed as a waste by-product. This research will involve the consolidation of past research on calcium loss in freshwater lakes and make specific recommendations to the KLCA regarding how to address the issues being faced. An additional community-oriented summary booklet for educational purposes should be included as part of the project deliverables.

Supporting Daphnia on Kawagama Lake

Daphnia are a 0.2-5 mm planktonic crustacean that represent a vital bottom-tier food supply within freshwater lakes. The health and abundance of Daphnia in a lake affects the rest of the food chain, including the size and abundance of species of fish relied upon for recreational angling. The health of Daphnia populations is being stressed by calcium loss (needed for their shells) and invasive species such as the spiny water flea. This project would explore how best to promote the health of Daphnia and provide recommendations for improving Daphnia health. An additional deliverable will include a summary booklet which can be used to educate the community through an awareness campaign.



Kawagama Lake Awareness Campaign – Water Quality Issues & Impact on Native Aquatic Species

Kawagama is a very large lake with more than 1,000 cottages. Previous campaigns on the lake have focused on shoreline health and how to protect water quality through the use of buffers. Kawagama Lake is currently facing a number of threats to long-term water quality from invasive species and calcium decline partially influenced by historic acid deposition, and ongoing logging, as well as the improper washing of boats (which act as vectors for invasive species). The purpose of this project is to first establish a baseline understanding of the community's awareness of major factors that affect aquatic life in Kawagama Lake. This phase of the project may involve a survey and or interviews with various demographics on the lake and should provide recommendations for who to target. The second phase of the project will be to establish an awareness campaign to target the groups identified in the survey phase. The awareness campaign will include content from the forthcoming educational campaigns regarding calcium decline and methods of supporting vital bottom of the food chain species such as Daphnia. It is hoped that this project may be repeated in a number of years to determine if/how educational efforts have been received compared to the baseline.

Thank You!

The KLCA would like to say a big THANK YOU to John McHardy for 8 years of volunteer service on the KLCA Board of Directors. John is a resident of Kawagama Lake and has dedicated hundreds of hours over the past 8 years working to keep Kawagama Lake one of the best places to be!

John joined the KLCA Board of Directors as vice president in 2010 and became president in 2012. He used a collaborative and collegial approach with Algonquin Highlands Township Council to gain their support in dealing with a Bell Mobility cell tower application. Originally, it was to be an ugly metal tower possibly with lights; however, he organized sufficient opposition to convince Bell to change it to a more esthetically appealing monopine (tower disguised as a large pine tree). This established an important precedent that Rogers adhered to in their application for a cell tower. He was instrumental in the development of a cell tower policy by Algonquin Highlands Township.

John also joined the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations (“CHA”) in 2014 and was drafted by Haliburton County Council to join a team making a presentation to the Minister of Community Safety and Corrections opposing the OPP cost increases. The presentation plus all the other email and letter writing campaign efforts resulted in \$2 million in annual savings.

The CHA delivered the Canadian Wildlife Federation Shoreline Health (“Love Your Lake”) project which John co-managed (in Haliburton County) and brought to Kawagama and Bear Lakes to study the health of the shoreline along the 111 kms surrounding both lakes. The project completed a study of a total of 70 lakes, produced 13,487 individual property reports plus 70 lake-wide assessments and is funding 25 shoreline re-naturalization grants (3 for the KLCA).

Throughout his time on the board, John has also been involved in a number of committees including formalization of a Resource Committee to address Board vacancies and a Charity Committee tasked with prioritizing the requests for donations. He also played a role in the KLCA becoming engaged in the Starry Summer Nights fundraiser for Moorelands.

John continued to manage the positive relationship with Algonquin Highlands Township Council during his term as past president which he completed at the 2018 AGM. He has stepped down from the KLCA Board to work on his PhD (“Patty Honey-Do” list). He also continues to be a CHA director and is involved in a number of other groups.



Welcome!

The KLCA would like to welcome Kathleen Hedley into the role of President of the KLCA for the next 3 years. Kathleen has been a cottager on Kawagama for most of her life and is now enjoying retirement by spending more time on the lake. Her 30 year career in the field of Environmental Protection and her love of the lake make her an asset to the board.

We would also like to welcome Adam Pifko into the role of Vice President. Adam is a lifelong cottager who brings a wealth of experience to the KLCA. His background as an engineer help him think out solutions and ideas logically and he has already taken the lead on several KLCA initiatives.



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