

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association



"Preserve the Heritage"

Newsflash Sept. 2014

Municipal Election 2014 The municipal elections are upon us and we all need to get involved and vote in the elections in Haliburton Highlands. This type of statement often raises the question "Why bother or can I really make a difference ?"

There are 2 very solid examples of how your participation has made a positive difference. The first is the cell tower erected on a hilltop near the south shore of Lake Kawagama. It was originally designed to be a taller metal tower however the public comments you submitted were very instrumental in getting the design changed to a much more esthetically pleasing "mono pine design". The second is the recent OPP Funding Model which in its original format was going to increase the amount charged by the OPP for policing in Haliburton County by over \$ 5 million resulting in significant increases in the municipal portion of your tax bill. I was a member of the County Team which made a presentation to the Minister responsible for the OPP who made it very clear he got the message from all of the emails and letters (from you !) that there was something wrong with the model. Thanks, in part to your efforts, the model has been revised and the cost increase is now expected to be 40 % less as a result.

So, how do you get involved and vote ?

1. Verify you are on the voters' list by contacting the Township you are in at the following phone numbers:

Algonquin Highlands: 705.489.2379
Dysart et al: 705.457.1740

It is important to note this is a mail-in election and your ballots with voting instructions will be mailed to you at the address the Township has on file for you. The Townships have posted a lot of good information about the election process on their websites (listed in # 2 below).

2. Become aware of who the candidates are that are running in your ward. You should contact the Township office at the phone numbers above if you are unsure of which ward you are eligible to vote in. The Townships have posted the official list of candidates on their websites at the following links:

Algonquin Highlands: <http://www.dysartetal.ca/portfolio-view/elections-2014/>
Dysart et Al Township: <http://www.dysartetal.ca/portfolio-view/elections-2014/>

3. Learn about what each candidate stands for.
 - a. Several have their own websites as listed on the Township website (# 2 above). Also, the Highlander Newspaper is interviewing the candidates and posting a video of the interview on the Highlander website (<http://highlanderonline.ca/know-your-candidates>).
 - b. Attend the Candidates Debate hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce in partnership with several others. The dates and locations of each can be found at: <http://haliburtonchamber.com/articles.php?id=13756>
 - c. If you cannot attend the Candidates Debate you can submit questions through the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce at: <http://haliburtonchamber.com/articles.php?id=13756>
 - d. If you cannot attend the Candidates Debate you may be able to watch it online as the Highlander is planning to livestream the debates over the internet : <http://highlanderonline.ca/election-2014-new>

Please, get involved and vote !!

John McHardy, President
Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association

Navigation We would like to extend our congratulations to Tom Mulhall, who was unanimously voted to become the new Director of Navigation. We extend our thanks and gratitude to Adrian McInerney, for his many years of service in making our lake a safe place to enjoy.

Contribute to Reflections 2015 Before those summer memories fade, now's the time to pull together your submissions for Reflections 2015! As always, we are looking for true stories, fiction, photos, recipes, and anything else you want to share with your fellow KLCA members. We are always especially on the lookout for content for the kids' section -- encourage your kids to write about cottage experiences (before school gets too busy) or send photographs or scans of craft projects or artwork. If you have any ideas for cottage-related activities for kids, we'd also love to get those.

And of course, we love to receive all those beautiful photos of life on the lakes! Please send the highest resolution/file size possible.

Send all submissions to Sara Goodchild Condie by e-mail at reflections@klca.org, or by snail-mail to 211 Glenlake Avenue, Toronto ON M6P1E9.

Hike Haliburton Festival September 18th-21st, 2014, Haliburton will host Canada's largest hiking festival! Hike Haliburton Festival is offering over 70 guided themed hikes and festival events for all ages, interests and abilities. Bring your friends and family for a weekend of adventure and fun. You can check out all the events that are happening and the festival map at the website below. All hikes are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are welcome. Please register on-line at www.hikehaliburton.com or by calling 705-286-1777.

Where did the Beach Go? Those of you who follow lake levels will have noticed the obvious. Kawagama Lake water levels for Labour Day Weekend were the highest in years. What is going on? If there was plenty of rain last summer then welcome to this summer!

While there have been plenty of thunderstorms, the rainfall amounts have varied significantly from one location to another. Statistics for summer, show the historical average rainfall from April through August for Kawagama Lake to be 410.8mm. For this year the total recorded at Russell Landing for these 5 months was 556.8mm, or 135% of normal. The Hollow River is running full out at the moment. I'm sure that some boaters are happy, but for the others – Where did my beach go?

Eric Millar - Lake Levels Director

Revised OPP Billing Model Excerpt taken from an analysis done by the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association) dated August 14th, 2014.

(Note – all numbers are preliminary and based on C.H.A. initial analysis)

While lobbying did reduce the impact of the tax increase by over \$2 million, Haliburton County property owners will still face tax increases totaling approx. \$ 3 million per year.

The improvements – as a result of the lobbying:

- The increase in costs will be approx. \$3 million vs the initial proposal impact of over \$5 million.
- 40% of the charge will be based on call volumes as opposed to 27-30% in the original proposals.
- All properties in a municipality will now be counted when calculating the remaining 60 % of the charge whereas previously commercial properties were not.
- The tax increase will be phased in as opposed to hitting as all in year one.

In summary, we should feel good that lobbying has reduced the impact by over \$2 million (40 %); however we are still dealing with major tax increases totaling over \$3 million as a result of a flawed model.

For more information, please go to:

Globe and Mail Article - <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/policing-costs-to-rise-in-cottage-country-in-ontario/article20072034/>

Minden Times - <http://www.newspapers-online.com/minden/?p=4862>

Upcoming Events in Dorset

Sept 20th Group of Seven / Tom Thomson & Artist's Day Festival. "Oxtongue Lake for Arts and Culture" invites you to the unveiling of "The Group of Seven and Tom Thomson Outdoor Exhibit" and Artists' Day Festival. Location: Oxtongue Lake Community Centre. Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sept 25th – Algonquin Highlands Township All Candidates Meeting from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - organized by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Ask a question or submit ahead of time - hear candidate responses - learn more about your candidates' vision for our community. Can't make it in person? Submit your question to admin@haliburtonchamber.com & tune into local media for complete meeting coverage. Contact the above e-mail or call 705-457-4700 for more information. Location: Dorset Rec Centre. Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sept 27th - Lions Foundation of Canada, Purina Walk for Guide Dogs - starting 10:00 a.m. at the Dorset Rec Centre. For more information, call Eve - (705) 766-9906.

Sept 30th – Dysart et al Township All Candidates Meeting from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - organized by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce. Ask a question or submit ahead of time - hear candidate responses - learn more about your candidates' vision for our community. Can't make it in person? Submit your question to admin@haliburtonchamber.com & tune into local media for complete meeting coverage. Contact the above e-mail or call 705-457-4700 for more information. Location: Fleming College Great Hall, Haliburton. Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Oct 1st - Dorset Community Partnership Group Meeting - Everyone welcome. Come out & hear what is going on in your Community such as the Nurse Practitioner Station, new signs welcoming people to Dorset, the old school property, etc. Bring a friend along to our next meeting - Wednesday, October 1st, 2014 - 7:00 p.m. - Dorset Rec Centre. We are always open to new ideas. For more information, call Collin - (705) 766-0616; Ruth - (705) 766-2281; Barb - (705) 766-2108. Hope you can make it. Location: Dorset Rec Centre. Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Every 3rd Tuesday - Community Policing. A group of volunteers 'working together with the OPP to form a shield against crime in our communities'. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to June. For more information, please contact Doug Rogers - (705) 766-9070 or Bill Giddins - (705) 489-2747. Location: Dorset Rec Centre . Time: 7:30 p.m.

Every 1st Wednesday - Dorset Book Club . This group meets the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m

The following are up-coming themes:

Oct. 1st - Local history book

Nov. 5th - Any book by Ian McEwen

Dec. 3rd - Inspirational change - a book that inspired you to change.

For more information, call Ruth or Sandy - (705) 766-9969.

Location: Dorset Public Library. Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For more events and activities, please go to; <http://www.dorsetcanada.com>

Other: Tall Pines Snowmobile Club. This club is a member of the Muskoka Snowmobile Region & the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs with 200+ km of groomed trails in the Muskoka & Haliburton Highland regions. If you are interested in purchasing a trail permit, advertising on map signs or would like to volunteer with the Club, e-mail info@tallpines.org. Location: Dorset Area Trails. Web: <http://www.tallpines.org>

Enjoy the beauty of Fall !

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association (KLCA)

Email: info@klca.org Website: www.klca.org

Just a reminder that you are receiving this email because you have given permission on the annual KLCA renewal form. If you no longer wish to receive our emails, please send a message to: membership@klca.org with the subject line, "unsubscribe".