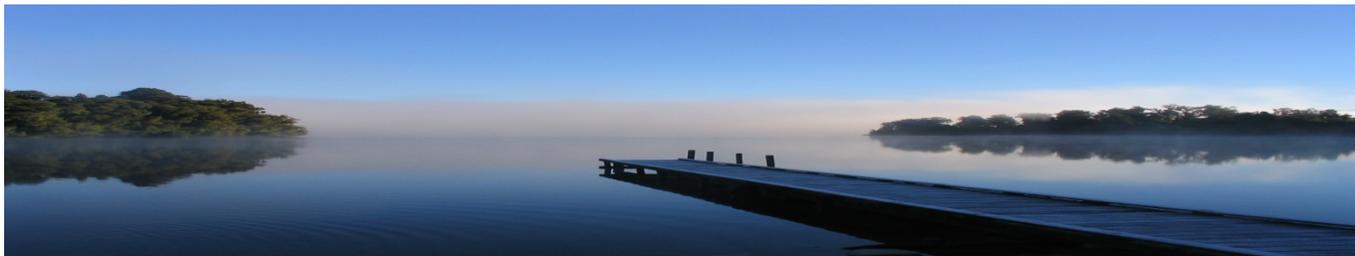


Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association



"Preserve the Heritage"

Newsflash June 2014

Upcoming Events in Dorset Bell Mobility will be hosting a public meeting at the Dorset Recreation Centre **Saturday June 14th between 1pm and 3pm** about the 80 metre (262 feet) tall cell tower proposed to be erected near the junction of County Road 12 (Livingstone Lake Road) and Bear Lake Road. More details can be found on the KLCA Website (www.klca.org).

June 15th, Father's Day, there will be a dinner given by the Anglican Church at the Dorset Recreation Centre at 6pm. Fathers will be free, children are free and \$5 for everyone else. Phone Pat or Jim Schell to reserve or for more info -- 705-766-2373.

June 21st is the official opening of the Dorset Pavilion. Events are planned. Look for signs around town for more information.

June 28th is going to be a busy day! Fireworks in Dorset at dusk as well as the Book and Pie Sale in the Firehall, the Garage Sale in the Dorset Rec. Centre, Household Hazardous Waste Day at the Dorset Landfill, and Heritage Day at the Dorset Museum.

Dorset Heritage Day at the Dorset Heritage Museum, 10am – 3pm, rain or shine!

The McLennan Family Trio will be playing old-time music; there will be a few classic cars; the 35th Battalion, a living history of Muskoka's military past; Rick Nash of Woodland Heirlooms; Don Lupton, a member of Muskoka Pioneer Power with his 1920 Drag Saw Firewood Cutter; and Sugar Bush and Maple Syrup with Roy MacKay.

Browse not-to-be-missed offerings at the Up Scale and Reuse Repurpose Your Life Craft Show, featuring glassware repurposed into beautiful birdbaths; reclaimed wood from outdoor treks turned into usable items such as coasters and bread boards; garlic and veggies made into yummy preserves by Big Ass Garlic; repurposed sweaters felted and turned into beautiful hats, slippers, and other unique items; and pieces from a maker who spins and dyes her own wool.

While you're there, step inside the museum and enjoy their two new exhibits, Outdoor Fun and The Neilson Family. All of the exhibits have had new artifacts and/or photos added.

AGM The KLCA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Dorset Rec. Centre at 10am on **July 5th**. Come out and hear about our lake and listen to some interesting guest speakers. Donna Kearney will update us about the proposed Dorset Nurse Practitioner Station. We will also be looking to amend our Bylaws increasing the Term of Office from 2 years to 3 years.

KLCA Treasure Hunt Looking for a fun challenge this summer? Check out page 7 of *Reflections 2014* for the first clue in the KLCA Treasure Hunt! Starting July 5th, follow the clues around Dorset and the lakes. Solve the hunt by **August 31st** for your chance to win prizes and bragging rights!

Annual KLCA Regatta **August 2nd** is the annual KLCA Regatta at Moorelands Camp. (Rain date August 3rd.) This awesome, fun-filled day will begin at 11am. Bring your sunscreen, lifejackets, a hat and some money for the amazing raffle prizes and tasty BBQ. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and engage in some friendly competition. No matter what your age, there is something for you! If you would like to volunteer for this event, please send an email to info@klca.org.

A Winning Strategy One could almost hear a collective sigh of relief when Target Lake Levels, come the end of April, were not exceeded and the MNR winter strategy, which has been previously reported in the February Newsletter and in the current *Reflections*, proved to be effective with no appreciable Kawagama Lake flooding. A predicted 50mm rainfall, which could have changed everything come late April, fortunately did not materialize. What is most remarkable has been the torrent of water released down the Hollow River 24/7 for weeks now.

Eric Millar, Lake Levels Director

Fisheries Update – Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring Program

It's been a long winter and I am sure many of you are itching to get back on the lake and start fishing. As you are aware, the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for monitoring the health of fish populations in the lakes across Ontario. In 2008, the MNR instituted the Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring Program, which will allow the Ministry to better understand the current state of fish and other aquatic resources, identify stresses on these resources, and report on changes over time. The surveys are intended to verify the abundance and health of fish in our lakes, and are designed to monitor all species in the lake. We are happy to report that Kawagama Lake has been chosen for Broad-scale assessment in August 2014, and will take 2-3 weeks to complete.

Gill nets will be set overnight and lifted in the morning. The fisheries' assessment includes two different forms of netting: one uses small mesh gill nets while the other is large mesh gill nets. The reason for two different gear types is that small mesh results are used as measures of biodiversity (how many species exist) while the large mesh results are used to measure certain indices of sport fish (i.e. average sizes, relative abundance, etc.) A variety of information will be recorded from the fish caught: sex, age, length, weight, and general health. Nets will be marked with floats with a label affixed with contact information for the local MNR office. Technicians will take samples of the

water, lake temperatures, check for invasive species, test for clarity, oxygen levels, and collect samples of fish for contaminant analyses. In addition, there will be aerial surveys throughout the summer and into the winter to estimate the number of anglers using these lakes.

The Broad-scale Monitoring Program is necessary to guide our fisheries management in the future. It will provide MNR biologists with better information on a larger scale than has been used in the past. The data is intended to be analyzed on a Fisheries Management Zone scale (i.e. not lake specific analysis). Finding reports on Kawagama will be available to the public on the status of the fisheries once the data has been analyzed. Once available, we will advise everyone on where to find the detailed information, and also what the findings mean to our lake community.

How can you help? It is critically important for your safety and the integrity of the MNR data that the nets are not disturbed. If you are out on our lake during the program and see the MNR buoys, please do not touch the buoys or the nets. Do not anchor close to the area and avoid any recreational activities in and around the area. The buoys and nets will be easy to identify as they are orange with the Ontario logo. Also be aware that the nets are checked and moved to a new location on a daily basis.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us via the KLCA website, myself rowersdad9@gmail.com or Steve Vandermeer at (705) 324-5851 steve.vandermeer@ontario.ca.

Happy Fishing!

Robert Bill, Director of Fisheries

OPP Tax Increase Update # 3 (2014.05.28) The OPP is proposing to change the way in which it generates the bill to each Township for the policing services it provides. The proposed method is badly flawed and contains serious inequities which, if implemented, will result in significant increases to the municipal portion of your tax bill. Current estimates are this will add approximately \$ 90.00 to the municipal portion of property taxes for every \$ 100,000 of assessment in Algonquin Highlands. For example, this will add \$ 450.00 on properties assessed at \$ 500,000. Similar increases are forecast for properties in Dysart et al.

The letter writing and emailing efforts to the Premier and other members of the Provincial Legislature voicing concerns over the inequities of the proposed changes have paid off. The Kathleen Wynne government has committed that, if re-elected, it will review the proposed model and work to implement changes to address some of the concerns.

Please note this is not meant as an endorsement for any candidate, rather it is meant as an update of the results of the letter writing campaign.

All of this to say, the proposed billing model appears on hold pending further review and while this does not guarantee a reduction in policing related tax increases it is encouraging. I am continuing to track this and will provide further updates to be posted on the KLCA website www.klca.org.

John McHardy, KLCA President

Other Info: *Are you renting your cottage this summer? The Cottage Kit* contains literature explaining items such as hours of operation and locations of landfills, rules and regulations, recycling guide, a onetime Landfill Pass, two (2) transparent blue recycling bags for containers, one (1) transparent bag for garbage, one (1) paper bag for fibres, and some additional safety information. **The Cottage Kits** are available from the Municipal Office or your closest Dysart et al landfill site at a cost of \$3.00 each or ten kits for \$25.00.

Informative Videos

"**Poop Talk**" video -- This video "provides the straight poop on caring for your septic system".

<http://vimeo.com/channels/506748>

Shoreline video -- "A Beginner's Guide to Shoreline Stewardship" is a step by step guide to restoring your shoreline to protect the health of your lake.

<http://vimeo.com/channels/lakeprotectors/91079466>

Thanks to all of you for renewing your KLCA memberships! We hope you find the information in this Newsflash useful.

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association (KLCA)

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