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President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

This summer of 2019 was particularly wonderful! The (almost) consistently great weather warmed our Crane Lake water early on, and the intermittent rain storms kept the forests happy and healthy. The bears seemed to be content closer to their own habitats this year, (and away from our own!) likely because they also benefited from the warm sun and the fresh rainfalls and so their food supply was ample. And, the extra care taken by everyone on Crane Lake this Spring effectively protected the nesting zones of our Loon population, evidenced by the beauty of their songs throughout our summer evenings. Crane Lake was at its' best for sure!

The summer swim & paddle Regatta was once again very well attended, and the day was perfect for both our many participants as well as the observers from the hill! With all the energy exerted, the BBQ lunch seemed to be enjoyed by all!! The following day, our Sailing Regatta was held in the South End of Crane and was an exciting race, with both adult and junior categories participating! As with any event, the CLA is thankful for all volunteers that assisted to make both days so much fun for everyone!

While we each love to enjoy our time at Crane Lake, we must also remain especially cognizant of the vulnerability of our environment in which we live. A catastrophe takes only a moment to change our

lives. Boating and Fire Safety must always be at the 'top of our minds' at all times. Remember to share with your families and guests the 'Preserving Paradise' binder issued by the CLA with important, often critical information regarding safety at the cottage. Of course, this is also a wonderful resource for the day-to-day needs of any cottager including fishing information, a history of our lake, our Township's applicable by-laws and TOA contact information, waste management details, and the Executive summary of our own Crane Lake Plan that resides with the Township of The Archipelago.

This summer one of our fellow cottagers did suffer a sudden, potentially catastrophic, fire scare. The cottager was extremely thankful for the immediate, calming and incredibly competent assistance by our Chair of the Fire Safety Committee, Bruce Sanderson and his wife, Kim, in response to an emergency call in the late hours of the evening. The fire was extinguished, and the Fire Department from Seguin confirmed the cottage to be safe. The deep fear of the risk to life, the fear of losing the cottage, and the fear of the impact on our forest are all very real. For those that attended the CLA AGM this summer, you learned from the discussion with Mr. Gary Joice, our TOA By-Laws officer, about Fire Safety. The CLA continues to encourage every property owner on Crane to be proactive with their own safety checks

around the property including: WETT inspections of woodstoves, regardless of how often they are used; check, and recheck the electrical connections and wiring; removing all woodpiles from under and/or close to the cottage; storing propane tanks away from the cottage; regular cleaning of eavestroughs and cutting away branches that hang over the cottage. Ensure there are working smoke detectors and CO2 sensors around the cottage, and especially in the sleeping quarters of the cottage & cabins. Be sure to have several appropriate fire extinguishers easily obtainable around the cottage/cabins/boathouse, and that everyone in the cottage is trained on how to use them. None of us expect a fire to start on our property, but if one does, we must each be confident we know how to respond quickly, appropriately and confidently. A copy of the excerpt related to Fire Safety from our own Preserving Paradise is included for your easy reference. Please read it!

Your CLA board is very excited about the multimedia production underway with respect to the history of Crane Lake and we are hopeful that our 'Trailer' will be ready for show at the 2020 AGM meeting! We have interviewed several individuals, and we continue to seek family stories and photographs that will help us bring the story of our lake's history to 'life' for you! Thank you to everyone who has already participated and sent stories and photos, but to everyone else, please keep them coming!

Now autumn has arrived, along with shorter days and colder temperatures, we find ourselves once again preparing for the winter season. Thanksgiving weekend on Crane Lake provided for many of us the opportunity to, admittedly sadly, secure our properties for the onslaught of the cold and snow, but only after enjoying a final gathering of family & friends around the table and giving thanks for another great season on Crane!

From all of the CLA Board members, we wish you a terrific end to the year of 2019, and great health and happiness as we commence a new decade in 2020!



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The Deerhorn Conference

Fred Nagy & Monica Gemeinhardt

On October 5th 2019, the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) hosted another Deerhorn conference. These conferences are TOA meetings to promote communication within the TOA community. In attendance were representatives of the associations in the township (TOA Associations), TOA Staff, TOA councilors and the Georgian Bay Association. Seventy-seven percent of the attendees (excluding councilors and staff) were from TOA associations on Georgian Bay itself and 19% were from the TOA associations on inland lakes. Crane Lake Association was represented by Fred Nagy and Monica Gemeinhardt.

This meeting was held at the Stockey Centre. The TOA presented proposed strategic principles and the current zoning by-laws for review and comment by the TOA Associations:

The morning focused on TOA's proposed strategic principles. After a municipal overview, breakout teams of TOA Association representatives (not staff or other parties) reviewed the TOA proposed strategic principles:

- Protect & Preserve
- Good Neighbours
- Invasive Species
- Responsible Waste Removal
- Cost Effective Service and Shared Values

These principles were endorsed with unanimous agreement that the top priority is Protect & Preserve. Additional suggestions from the association representatives included leadership, education, communication and a proactive approach.

Before lunch the Reeve, Bert Liverance, was asked about the possibility of amalgamation with the Township of Georgian Bay. The Reeve stated "amalgamation if necessary but not necessarily amalgamation". The Reeve and other delegates from the Township met recently with Minister Clark. The Reeve stated the TOA does not see the need or benefit of amalgamation with any other township. He noted that the TOA is in an ideal position as a good neighbour providing and or sharing initiatives with other townships.

A review of Zoning Bylaws was the focus of the afternoon. The TOA association representatives voted on possible changes through the use of clickers and the results were posted on a screen for all to see. Of special interest were:

Whether the current set back from shoreline (7 meters) should be increased?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| • No. | 48% |
| • Yes, on Georgian Bay. | 30% |
| • Yes, on Inland Lakes. | 11% |
| • Yes, throughout the Archipelago | 11% |

What is an appropriate setback distance?

- The majority chose 7 meters,
- While 17% opted for 20 meters setback (just about the percentage of attendees from inland lakes)

The proceeding of the day were recorded and will be considered by staff and Council.

Thanksgiving Walks

Monica Gemeinhardt



October brings our Autumn colours to a peak in cottage country. It wouldn't be Thanksgiving at Crane Lake without a walk or hike somewhere in the great outdoors. Usually the question of where to hike is raised on the Saturday, ideas are batted around, and on the Sunday afternoon we end up exploring somewhere.

My first walk was in 1983, my very first Thanksgiving on Crane Lake. There were over 30 of us on the Aga Ming Road, walking from Fish Bay to the sandpits, led by Bill Kunc. It was a leisurely stroll as family and friends visited while they walked. Folks mused about whether the power would go off yet again when the turkeys were in the oven. Our ages ranged from about one to over 60 years. Snacks and drinks were shared as we progressed.

Hiking through dense woods wasn't an option for the first few years that we hiked because there were many little kids in the new generation; hence we repeated this walk for a number of years. I recall kids on bikes, in strollers and baby carriages.

About 10 years later on a Thanksgiving weekend we set off in the boat with a visiting family of five and my two nieces- 10 in all. We tied up in the north end and hiked to another lake. Our guide somehow got turned around, one of the ladies sprained an ankle as we wandered in what seemed like circles. I knew my nieces' parents would come and find us if darkness approached. My worry was the turkey in the oven, imagining it getting browner and browner, and dryer and dryer. Miraculously, we found shore and our boat appeared further along the shoreline. So, we arrived back at the cottage without further incident before dusk. The turkey was perfect that year!

Fifteen or so of us have walked the hydro swath off the Crane Lake road, starting at Fergusons in the south end. The terrain is interesting and there is always the chance of spotting wildlife in that habitat.

My favourite hike is started by a boat ride to the north end, going ashore and then making our way to the cliff that overlooks Thompson (or Speck) Lake. You have a glorious high up view of the marshy lake, and the fall colours from that vantage point are spectacular. We must drop a rock or two from the cliff just to hear the splash way below. Usually on this hike there are scatological samples to peer over and identify, if that is your thing.

About 10 years ago, a convoy of vehicles parked at the 214 exit of the 400. Were there 20 or 25 of us? Both kids and adults. We had a beautiful, sunny walk along the Sequin Trail. Visiting with various cottagers, Tim's coffee in hand, it was a quintessential Canadian Thanksgiving walk.

Two years ago about 20 of us hiked the new spur off the Crane Lake Road. We left boats at the dam, and took other boats to a cottage on the new Bump Rock Road. What a hike! Wet, mucky and much longer than expected. Two folks who can't swim never caught up with us. They walked both to the dam and back alone! The turkey only went in the oven when we returned to the cottage. Dinner was late, but again cooked to perfection.

Did you get out for a walk or hike for Thanksgiving? There is nothing finer than the promise of a turkey dinner to come, inhaling the crisp air, taking in vistas of red and yellow hues, with a carpet of fallen leaves rustling at your feet.

Wood Stove Safety

Bruce Sanderson



On a late summer Saturday night this year, September 7th to be exact, at around 10:30pm, there was a fire at a cottage on Crane Lake. Very luckily, it was discovered soon after it started, and even more fortunately, it was extinguished quickly by the cottager who found it. Her fast and calm response saved the cottage. By the time Crane Lake volunteers arrived, then a team from Seguin Fire department, all that was left to do was remove some smouldering siding, check for hot spots and reassure the occupants that the fire was indeed out. No persons were injured and there was no substantial property damage.

What was most notable about this incident, was the circumstances that caused it to happen. The cleanout cap on a "T" connection in the wood stove chimney (just outside where the pipe passed through the exterior wall) fell off, igniting a vinyl cover over a wood storage stand located on the deck and then the wood underneath the cover. This then started to burn a hole in the wall of the cottage. At this point the cottager happened to spot the fire and used fire extinguishers to put it out. If this had occurred even an hour later when the occupants were in bed, the results could have been tragic.

This may sound like an extraordinary situation to have a seemingly unsecured cleanout cap on a chimney, but a quick check of at least one other chimney installation on Crane Lake that had an exterior "T" connection with a cleanout turned up an identical installation, meaning it could be a common issue. Despite the Seguin Fire Chief calling this a

freak accident, it raises at least 4 safety behaviours worth our focus, as follows:

1. Have your wood stove / chimney professionally inspected on a proactive basis.
 - The Canada Safety Council says, "Warm and cozy can quickly turn dangerous, destructive and deadly if your wood-burning unit is not properly installed or regularly maintained."
 - Have your chimney cleaned twice a year and inspect the flue vents regularly. To prevent creosote from building up in your chimney and flue, don't burn cardboard, trash or green wood.
 - Have your fire department, building inspector, stove retailer or chimney sweep ensure your stove meets WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer) safety guidelines. Make sure your wood stove is placed the proper minimum distance from walls, furniture, curtains and other combustible material, located on non-combustible flooring and properly ventilated.
2. Practice safe storage habits for flammable items near the cottage, including spare firewood and fuels like propane, gasoline, kerosene, etc.
 - Firewood and lumber should not be stored under or near the cottage or on porches or decks.
 - Propane, gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored well away from the cottage and away from heat sources.

3. Have at least 2 operational fire extinguishers located strategically in your cottage to quickly access in an emergency. A good location is near exit doors and near sources of fire like a stove or fireplace.
 - Fire extinguishers have ratings like 1A/5B/C or 2A/10B/C, etc. which correspond with the amount of powder suppressant material inside for different types of fires. "A" stands for wood or paper fires, "B" is for fires of flammable liquids, and "C" is for electrical fires.
 - Also make sure smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide detectors are installed in the proper locations and test them regularly.
4. Make a fire safety plan, including exit strategies and a designated meeting place away from the building. PRACTICE this plan with your family regularly.

If you haven't paid attention to your wood stove, stove pipe or chimney since it was installed, NOW is the time to act. It is a safe bet that 90% of the cottages on Crane Lake have a wood stove / fireplace or chimney installation older than 10 years. Many are probably older than 20 years. They may not only have outdated designs and safety specifications, but parts may have deteriorated, loosened or outright failed. Exposure to extreme heating and cooling can make metal brittle and cracked (think the heat of your stove pipe when you light a fire and the cold of our winters when we're not at the cottage). Creosote buildup in the stovepipes or chimney could start a chimney fire. The chimney design may no longer meet building code standards (especially if you have horizontal pipe sections or "T" connections). The thimbles that keep the hot stove pipe away from combustible materials where the pipe passes through a wall or ceiling may need upgrading.

I hope that this article makes everyone stop, think and act. An inspection by a wood energy professional could provide a little peace of mind, or it could save your life. Be safe and keep enjoying the paradise that is Crane Lake!

If you don't have a preferred contractor to inspect your woodstove, WETT maintains a searchable database of certified technicians and installers. Visit <https://www.wettinc.ca/> and follow the instructions to search for a local provider.



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History Project Update

Monica Gemeinhardt & Carolyn Ferreira

The history of Crane Lake has been captured in the past by a number of members of our community, most notably, in the compilations of stories recorded by Jim Hill. This current history project from the Association will include interviews of a number of individuals with many years of experience on Crane Lake as well as a few with more recent history. Interviews are being filmed and recorded by Gary Mueller and will be interwoven with beautiful footage from the four seasons on the lake along with photos provided by our lake community.

These recorded experiences may provide us all with a richer appreciation of our Lake's history and a better understanding of the perspectives of our neighbours. For example, can you imagine traveling to the lake in your family's car, a trip that might take two days? And then continuing the voyage to your cottage in a boat powered by a 1.5 horsepower motor pulling a canoe filled with your supplies for the summer months, a voyage that could take many hours? And now being that same individual sitting on your dock watching the number of passing boats of today?

At the time of writing about 10 interviews have been conducted, with a few more to capture by Thanksgiving, hopefully. We are looking now for historical film footage of the lake. Does anybody have any old film footage that Gary could include? It would be awesome if you could let him know at garymueller44@gmail.com.



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2019 Annual Regatta

Ross Fraser



Another year, another fantastic Crane Lake Association Regatta! We had a beautiful day on August 3rd, this year, with well over 70 community members gathered at the Crane Lake Resort beach to cheer on their families and friends! While all participants are winners in our hearts, the annual Regatta results are as follows:

Catagory	Winners
Under 7 Non-Swimmer Girls	1. Sean Neugebauer
Under 7 Non-Swimmer Boys	1. Sean Neugebauer
7 & Under Girls	1. Rachel Tack
7 & Under Boys	1. Justin Neugebauer
8 - 10 Girls	1. Lexi Nicholson; 2. Natalie VanKoughnett; 3. Eleanor VanKoughnett
8 - 10 Boys	1. Max Follett; 2. Paul Neugebauer
11 - 13 Girls	1. Madeleine Woodburn
11 - 13 Boys	1. Nate Nicholson; 2. Andrew Tack; 2. Tyler Mueller; 3. Gavin Mueller
14 - 17 Girls	1. Hannah Vibien; 1. Annika Russell
14 - 17 Boys	1. Noah Woodburn
25 & Up Ladies	1. Tori Russell; 2. Carolyn Neugebauer; 3. Elizabeth Russell
25 & Up Men	1. Bob Neugebauer; 2. Brad Pitt
Fire Pump Relay	1. "Fireflies" - Hanna Vibien, Emily Vibien, Ella Mc Anika Russell 37.53 seconds 2. "Furies" - Vaughn, Ryker, Adam (Larkin): 43.75 seconds 3. "Combines" - Carolyn, Bob, Justin/Sean/Paul Neugebauer 45.8 seconds

A massive and special thank you to all of those who volunteered to help with the Regatta this year! The event has been running for over 40 years and quite literally would not be possible without the efforts of the CLA Board and those special folks who volunteer their time to help keep the show running. Extra special thank you to our young volunteers this year, Larkin, Noah and Maddie, who braved both the shore and the seas in our race finish line boat. Thank you all - and looking forward to seeing you August 1st, 2020 for more Regatta fun!

Fishing Story

Kate Lissaur

About a year and a half ago, Johnny began learning to fly cast and tie flies, and had taken avidly to both arts. He had been reading about a fairly recent trend among fly fishermen of attempting to fly fish for bass. He arrived at Crane lake with some flies he had tied for the purpose of attempting this on Crane Lake, and on his first day of fishing from our dock, he duly caught a small bass on his Montana fly. He was surprised to find that after a very brief tussle, the bass appeared to have become exceedingly strong, and was powering through the water with enormous momentum and agility. After Johnny had spent half an hour in bewildered battle with his fish, it broke water, and we saw that this is what had replaced the bass on his line. Miraculously, the Muskie was eventually netted by Katrianne's bass net (which fit the Muskie's head), and Johnny's hands. It measured 53-54" (4 ½ feet). We couldn't weigh it, because we didn't have a scale that would hold it without damaging it, but it was certainly on the fat side. According to estimated Muskie length-to-weight conversions, it probably weighted about 48 lb. See this website for more information about that: <https://www.in-fisherman.com/editorial/muskie-length-to-weight-conversion-chart/156004>. It was caught on a 5-weight flyrod with no leader, and 10lb test, and released back to the lake. (We added our dear Jimbo Gray for scale, while hastening to point out that he had no part in landing the fish!)



Got Fishing Stories to Share?

We'd Love to Hear Them! Send stories and photos to contactus@cranelakeassociation.ca and we'll include them in upcoming issues!

Fire Safety

An Excerpt Reprinted from the Preserving Paradise Binder



Fire Safety is not an afterthought. It should always be top of mind. Fire Safety should be learned and discussed. It should be taught to our children and reinforced. Fire Safety should be planned, and practiced. Fire Safety should be a way of life at home, at the cottage, and everywhere.

There are many common sense things you can do to prevent fire, safeguard lives and property, and mitigate damage. The following recommendations are the most relevant for the cottage environment, but are only a portion of a comprehensive Fire Safety strategy for your family and guests. Feel free to add to these as you see fit.

Smoke Alarms

Ontario Law states that **you must have at least one working smoke alarm on each floor of a house (or cottage) and located near sleeping areas.** This would include all outbuildings used for sleeping or habitation, including bunkies. Multiple alarms are better. Failure to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements could result in a ticket for \$360 or upon conviction, a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for corporations. It could also be a matter of life or death.

The two primary types of smoke alarms are the "Ionization" type of detector (this type more quickly registers open flames or fast moving fires) and the "Photoelectric" (this type more quickly detects smoke or smouldering fires). You can buy alarms that incorporate both of these detection types into one unit or you can buy them individually and install both types into your home. You can also buy alarms that incorporate both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors (see next section) into one unit. Alarms installed into new builds are usually hard wired into the electrical system. If you have this type and live in an area prone to power failures (like at the cottage), make sure they have a battery backup or buy separate battery operated units to supplement the hard wired type. Do your research and buy the type that suits your situation the best. To reduce the risk of a defective alarm, install a minimum of 2 alarms in every building. If one fails, you have a backup.

Smoke alarms should be tested at least monthly. Vacuum any dust buildup on the alarm. Keep the area clear around the alarm. Do not paint a smoke alarm.

Full time residents should change their smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks for daylight savings time. Seasonal cottagers should change their batteries the day they arrive at their cottage in the spring. If you should ever remove your alarm batteries because of a nuisance alarm such as burnt toast, don't hide the batteries on a shelf. Instead put them in an obvious place so there is no way that you can forget to put them back. If this happens often, move the smoke alarm or purchase an alarm with a temporary silencing button. These are not expensive and readily available. Sometimes older units become overly sensitive when dust gathers inside the alarm. If you are having problems with your alarm, replace it. They are not expensive.

Check the manufacturing date or expiry date and replace any units past the recommended lifespan. Most smoke alarms require replacement after 10 years. Old alarms can be disposed of in regular municipal garbage (not recycling).

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odourless, tasteless and colourless gas that is undetectable by human senses. It is created by the burning of fossil fuels. In the home or cottage, this includes oil, gas or propane appliances like stoves, furnaces, portable heaters, generators, fireplaces, water heaters or barbeques, wood burning appliances like fireplaces or wood stoves and charcoal burning barbeques. Carbon Monoxide is also created by your vehicle (or gas powered

ATV, lawn mower, gas trimmer, chainsaw, snowmobile, etc.), which is why a CO detector is required in your home if you have an attached garage, even if you have none of the other appliances mentioned above.

Early symptoms of CO poisoning such as headaches, nausea and fatigue are often mistaken for the flu and the gas goes undetected in the home. Prolonged exposure to CO can lead to brain damage and even death. Carbon Monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in North America. Everyone should be educated and made aware of the dangers.

Ontario law requires a CO detector in all homes that have appliances that generate CO or have an attached garage or carport. The National Fire Protection Association recommends at least one CO detector on each floor of your home. Check the local bylaws for any additional specific requirements for your municipality.

Some additional information about Carbon Monoxide detectors:

- The penalties for not having operational CO alarms are the same as for smoke detectors (above).
- CO detectors are either battery powered, plug-in (120V wall outlet) or hard-wired to your electrical system. If you have a plug-in or hard-wired model, make sure it has a battery backup to continue protection during power outages. Check or change these batteries as necessary when you change your smoke alarm batteries (every Spring or Fall).
- The Life Span (rated by CSA) of CO detectors ranges from 5 to 10 years. Check the documentation with your detectors and make sure you replace outdated units. Like smoke detectors, CO detectors do not last forever. Also, as technology changes, these devices will improve in performance.
- Follow the package instructions for your CO detector to determine the best placement within the building.
- In addition to checking the batteries, inspect or replace the CO detectors in both your home and cottage at least monthly, and install additional units if and where necessary.

Alarms With Voice Alert

As technology improves and further research is conducted, science develops better ways to keep us safe. New alarms with the sound of a human voice have been found in some research to be more effective at waking children than the standard high pitch tone of conventional alarms. These voice alert alarms were developed after some forensic scientists and fire investigators warned that smoke alarms may not wake children. Children are not yet attuned to the myriad of alarm signals that exist in our day to day activities and their sleep patterns are different. Some tests have found that children are more likely to wake up from a deep sleep when an adult voice is warning them of a danger, instead of the high frequency tone of other alarms.

Alarm manufacturers Kidde and First Alert both make Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors with talking alerts. They are available at most big box stores or can be ordered in.

Fire Extinguishers

As of this date, Fire Extinguishers are not yet required by law in Ontario, but it is prudent to have at least a couple on hand. They come in different sizes and chemical formulations, but by far the most common for residential applications is the dry-powder chemical type.

There are 3 primary categories of fires that the powder in the fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish.

- Class A – Combustible materials such as paper, wood, fabric, refuse
- Class B – Flammable liquids and gases (oil, gasoline, propane, etc.)
- Class C – Electrical – Note that electricity does not burn, however if the fire is electrically energized (i.e. an electrical short ignites a combustible material), electrocution could occur if the fire is fought with water. If the power is turned off, the fire can then be fought as a Class A or B.

Choose a fire extinguisher which is rated for all 3 classes. Typical sizes for the home range from a "1A, 5B, C" for a 2 lb. model up to "2A, 10B, C" for about a 7 lb. model. The numbers in front of each letter correspond to the amount of dry chemical compound for that type of fire. Larger extinguishers are available but may be too heavy for some adults or children to operate. A couple of smaller extinguishers will work just as well as one large one.

It is recommended to have at least 2 fire extinguishers in the home. The best place to locate them is near the kitchen, and at an exit to the home, making it readily accessible when exiting or entering the structure. It is best to have several fire extinguishers, with locations including:

- Kitchen
- Near Bedrooms
- Basement (especially if there is only one way into or out of the basement)
- At Exits
- Workshop or Shed
- Garage
- Bunkie
- Car
- Boat (see note below)

****Note** that any motorized boat with a fixed fuel tank (permanently attached to the boat) up to 6 m (19'8") must have as a minimum, one 5BC fire extinguisher. Also, ANY motorized boat between 6 m and 9 m (19'8" to 29'6") must have as a minimum, one 5BC fire extinguisher. For further information, refer to the Minimum Safety Equipment Requirements chart in the "Boating" section.

Familiarize yourself with the operation of your fire extinguishers and memorize the "PASS" procedure:

- **P** – Pull the pin
- **A** – Aim at the base of the flames
- **S** – Squeeze the handle to eject the chemical
- **S** – Use a sweeping motion back and forth centering on the base of the flames

Fire extinguishers work well for putting out small fires (before they spread), but for larger fires you will need to exit the building and call for more assistance (911).

Fire Safety Planning

It's never too early to talk to your family and friends who visit the cottage about fire safety and what to do in the event of a fire. Every cottage should have a "Fire Safety Plan" in the event of the unthinkable happening. Know all the exits that can be used for escape. Have a designated meeting place for everyone to go to when they exit the building. Rehearse the exit procedure with your children. Have a cell phone available to call 911 in case the land line is inaccessible or not working. Remember to have the "Emergency Numbers" information sheet posted in a high-visibility area beside your cottage phone. Also keep handy a copy of the "Fire Hazard Ratings" sheet, which explains the ratings posted by the TOA on the Crane Lake access roads (see Appendix).

Elements of a good Fire Safety Plan include:

- If a fire is detected indoors, exit the building immediately and close the door behind you. This may slow the spread of the fire by reducing the flow of fresh air. If you are in a room with a closed door, feel the door with the back of your hand to see if it is hot. If it is hot, don't open it.
- Every room should have 2 exit options. If access to an exit door is blocked by fire, you may be able to exit through a window, depending on the height off the ground. Collapsible emergency Fire Escape ladders are manufactured by companies like Kidde and available in stores like Canadian Tire and Home Depot for about \$70. They are hung over the sill of an open window (after you push out the screen) and unfold about 13 feet so they work well up to a second storey window. In the event a ladder is not available, if you are able to go out feet first and hang from the sill by your hands, you can reduce the height of your fall by several feet.
- Have a designated location, outside of the cottage, where your whole family will meet after escaping from the fire. This will help you ensure that everyone got out and prevent unnecessary searching.
- Call 911 as early as it is safely practical to do, so help will be on the way to extinguish the fire.
- Review your Fire Safety Plan regularly with all of the family. Things like checking doors for heat and using a window to exit may be obvious to an adult, but this should be covered in your plan with young children. Their natural instinct is to hide from danger, which could mean hiding under a bed when there is a fire. Prior discussion of what to do in the event of a fire can make the difference in a critical situation.

The key is to cover all aspects of your fire safety plan before there is a fire. Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors are a great start, but things like the proper location and use of Fire Extinguishers and Safety Ladders, meeting locations, etc., must be planned for early, reviewed frequently, and updated as necessary.

Storing Flammable Materials

Flammable materials such as gasoline, kerosene, propane tanks, oils, lighter fluid, paint thinner, etc., should never be stored in the cottage or any attached garages or storage rooms. These items must be kept in a separate shed or building located away from the cottage.

Don't store lumber underneath your cottage. Not only does it provide a home for unwanted animals, it can also provide fuel for a cottage fire and make it harder for the fire to be extinguished.

Preventing Chimney Fires

As more of us are enjoying our cottages in the winter as well as the summer, the possibility of a chimney fire is increased. Some chimney fires may burn themselves out quickly, but others could burn down a cottage. Chimney fires should definitely be taken very seriously.

The best way to avoid a chimney fire is by taking steps to prevent circumstances that could cause one to start. A chimney fire starts when super-heated gases from your wood stove or fireplace ignite creosote which builds up on the walls of your chimney. Creosote is black or brown in color and is crusty or tar-like in appearance.

There are a number of things you can do to prevent a chimney fire.

- Burn hard wood, such as maple, birch, oak, elm, or hickory. Evergreens, such as hemlock, spruce, and pine, have resins in them that cause a lot of creosote build-up when they are burned slowly.
- Don't burn green wood. Dry (seasoned) wood will produce much less creosote than greener wood.
- Keep your fire hot (above 225 degrees Fahrenheit if you have a chimney thermometer). A colder or smoldering fire allows resins to condense and cause creosote. If you are keeping a wood stove burning all day, burn a hot fire (at least 500 degrees F) a couple of times a day. This will help to burn off the small amount of daily accumulation of creosote.
- Make sure your chimney is properly constructed for the size of your stove or fireplace. A chimney that is too large will contribute to faster creosote buildup.
- Never use an accelerant such as lighter fluid to start your fire.
- Inspect your chimney annually for creosote buildup. If you are not comfortable cleaning it yourself or don't have the proper tools, have it cleaned professionally.

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- Have your wood stove / fireplace and chimney professionally inspected periodically by a WETT certified technician (Wood Energy Technology Training). They inspect solid fuel burning systems for excessive wear or damage and identify any repairs / replacements that may be required.
- If you are purchasing a property that has a solid fuel burning system, your Insurer will require a WETT Certificate before they will insure the structure against fire. Since building codes and safety technology are always changing, the wood stove and chimney that were installed 20 years ago may no longer be considered safe. Being conscientious about good stove and chimney maintenance will prevent issues and protect property and lives.

Outdoor Burning

The Township of the Archipelago By-law No. 2017-21 regulates open air burning, with specific regulations for Fire Season (April 1 to October 31). It can be found on the Township's website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. Key points of this By-law are:

- Outdoor fires are allowed, provided they are set within the conditions of the Fire Danger Ratings as declared by the Chief Fire Official and posted to the Township's website (refer to the Fire Ratings chart preceding this section).
- A person must be in charge of the fire and remain in line-of-sight at all times until it is totally extinguished.
- Conditions must exist that will allow the fire to burn safely through to extinguishment and the fire cannot adversely impact other people or property.
- You must be able to immediately contain and extinguish the fire should it become a risk to persons or property.
- Only clean wood can be burned, in order to not create excessive smoke or smell.
- The fire cannot be started before 6:00 pm and must be extinguished by 2:00 am the following day.
- Fires to burn piled wood, brush, leaves or acceptable wood by-products can be started only when there is a Low or Moderate Fire Danger. They must also be at least 10 metres (32'10") from any combustible materials and not larger than 2 metres (6'7") in diameter by 2 metres (6'7") high. The time restriction referenced above applies unless you have documented permission from the Chief Fire Official for the township.
- Campfires may only be started when there is a Low or Moderate Fire Danger. They must also be at least 5 metres (16'5") from any combustible materials and no larger than 1 metre (3'3") in diameter and 1 metre (3'3") high. The time restriction referenced above applies.
- Except during a Fire Ban, a fire for cooking or personal warmth may be started during Fire Season if the fire is on bare rock or non-combustible material, it is at least 5 metres from any flammable material, and it does not exceed one metre (3'3") in diameter and one metre (3'3") in height.
- Failure to comply with the By-law can result in fines or penalties, including costs incurred by the township for By-law enforcement, administrative costs and the cost of Fire Containment and Suppression Services.

Fact: Wildfires destroy an average of 200,000 hectares (494,211 acres) of forested land each year in Ontario!

Please remember that the geography and abundance of vegetation within the Township of the Archipelago increases the risk of a fire spreading rapidly. Outdoor burning regulations are in place and enforced in order to prevent wildfires and damage to personal property. Fires can be extremely dangerous and each year a number of preventable wildfires occur from improper use and handling. Don't become a statistic – Be Safety Conscious!

Outdoor Grills

The use of Barbeques or other enclosed fire sources, fuelled by charcoal or propane, is permitted at all times. Operate these devices within manufacturers guidelines and follow safe practices including prevention of flare-ups.

Fireworks, Firecrackers and Sky Lanterns

The Township of the Archipelago By-law No. 2017-20 regulates the setting off of Fireworks. It can be found on the Township's website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. Key points of this By-law are:

- Consumer Fireworks are only permitted on Victoria Day (the last Monday before May 25th), Canada Day (July 1st) and Independence Day (July 4th) and the one day immediately preceding and / or following each of these days.
- Firecrackers and Sky Lanterns are banned within the Township of the Archipelago.
- When the Fire Danger Rating is "High" or "Extreme" (Total Fire Ban), Fireworks are prohibited on all days of the year.

- When permitted, Fireworks are only allowed between 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm.
- No person under the age of eighteen may set off Fireworks unless under the direct supervision of and control of a person eighteen years of age or over.
- Persons setting off Fireworks must act in a safe manner including: Keeping spectators at a safe distance; Protecting private and public property; and Ensuring suitable fire extinguishing equipment is available at all times.
- Property damage or injury as a result of the discharge of Fireworks is the responsibility of the person setting off the Fireworks. In addition, persons found to be in violation of the By-law may be liable for costs incurred by the township, including By-law enforcement, administrative costs and the cost of Fire Containment and Suppression Services.

Some facts about Fireworks and the Environment

A quick Google search will provide a myriad of information about fireworks, both good and bad. Fireworks displays are exciting to watch and therefore unlikely to wane in popularity. However, they also come with risks, especially consumer fireworks from both a safety and an environmental standpoint. Below are some things to consider prior to planning a fireworks display.

- Fireworks contain several chemicals which are dangerous to the environment and dangerous for humans to inhale. As consumer fireworks are released at low heights, the danger of breathing them in is increased. The smoke can contain sulfur-coal compounds and traces of heavy metals. The combustion cloud can contain ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitric oxide.
- The fallout from fireworks (including the metals and chemicals mentioned above) falls into the water or onto the land where rain carries it into our lakes and rivers. This can harm fish and change the balance of the water, contributing to changes in the type of plants that grow and the nutrient load of the lake.
- New developments in commercial fireworks to reduce or replace certain chemicals considered dangerous to the environment are occurring over time, as the commercial fireworks industry wishes to become environmentally friendly. This can't be said of consumer fireworks, which are mostly made in offshore factories where price is the only driving factor and many banned substances are still used.
- Many offshore fireworks factories don't have rigorous safety controls, resulting in the abundance of personal injuries that take place every year from defective consumer fireworks.
- Embers from fireworks fallout can start fires. Likewise, improperly deployed fireworks or defective fireworks which blow open instead of firing vertically are the cause of a great many fires. In the community of Crane Lake, which is almost completely forested, the risk is greatly heightened, and there is the potential for catastrophic consequences if a forest fire is started.
- If you want to view a fireworks display, consider attending a large event with a commercial display of fireworks. Parry Sound holds professional Fireworks displays every Victoria Day and Canada Day.
- If you do set off fireworks at the cottage, use common sense and obey the rules and the safety precautions contained in the by-law, including the banned items, restricted days and total prohibitions during a high or extreme (total fire ban) fire hazard rating. Extreme caution must be exercised at all times.

Fire Hazard Rating Signs

Within the Township of the Archipelago, Fire Hazard Ratings must be strictly followed. For Crane Lake property owners, signs declaring the current hazard rating are posted at conspicuous locations on Healey Lake Road (for road access lots on the south side of Crane Lake) and on Blackstone Crane Lake Road (for road access lots on the north side of Crane Lake and all water access lots). The current Fire Hazard Rating is also posted on the home page of the Township of the Archipelago website, at www.thearchipelago.on.ca.

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