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President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

Autumn at the cottage. Mother Nature sure can have her moments, most of them incredibly impressive! This fall she did not let us down. On Thanksgiving weekend, in the early morning hours, just as the sun was rising to start a new day and the mist was still hovering over the cool water of the lake, it was one of those special moments when your breath is really taken away by the beauty in front of you. Mother Nature gave us the most spectacular display of magnificent colours, presented in perfect mirror image as Crane Lake 'stood still' allowing the magic to happen. Simply stunning. New memories created. And yes, with a wish to always remember the moment, several photos taken on the cell phone!

It has been a devastating year for so many since COVID-19 took hold of the world. Try as we may to each find our own new 'normalcy' amongst the chaos, the task remains quite daunting. Without a crystal ball, or any bright light at the end of the tunnel, the roller coaster ride is tough. And, this is exactly why the good memories we've made recently, enhanced by those we have held close to us from the past, are what we lean on to get through these most unusual times. For Crane Lakers, the trip to the cottage this year took very different routes. Some moved to the cottage early after COVID arrived and enjoyed the peace and quiet and comfort of being away from the 'hot spots' elsewhere in the

Province. Others snuggled down in their homes and became less mobile with only a few visits to Crane Lake. And of course, for many, the restrictions to travel made it impossible to visit the cottage this year at all. Regardless of the route you travelled this year, the good memories you created wherever you have spent the last 8 months will certainly make for great story telling when we are all finally back up at the Lake together sharing good times with family, friends and neighbours, on the shores of Crane Lake! Great times still lay ahead for us – Crane Lake isn't going anywhere!

If travel out of the country remains restrictive this winter, perhaps this is the year you decide to take a day trip, or longer, and enjoy the gorgeous scenery on Crane Lake after a beautiful snow fall! And, once the lake is solidly frozen, as many cottagers already know, it is wonderful to participate in various winter sports on Crane Lake including pick-up hockey, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, etc. There are miles of trails surrounding Crane Lake and the neighbouring territories just waiting for you!

As the saying goes, a photo can be worth a thousand words. So, please remember to share your special moments on Crane Lake by posting your pictures to the Crane Lake Association Facebook page, or send them to us at contactus@cranelakeassociation.ca!

Your CLA Board of Directors is very hopeful that 2021 will allow the return of all activities to our community, and the return of all cottagers to Crane Lake! In the meantime, the entire board joins me in wishing each of you a safe & healthy winter season!

Crane Lake Marina

Marcia Craig on behalf of ND McLennan Ltd.

To the Cottagers of Crane and Blackstone Lake, Just a brief update on the Marina. The Marina is currently up for sale but we are doing our best to keep some of the services going. We do plan to have the gas running next summer but hours and days are yet to be decided. Dock rentals will continue so if you rent a dock during the summer please email infocranelakemarina@gmail.com to plan for next summer. There are still some spaces available for winter boat storage but you are responsible for winterizing your own boat. Again, you can email the above email address for more information. Also, the parking lot will be plowed throughout the winter. Thanks and we wish you all a Happy Autumn!

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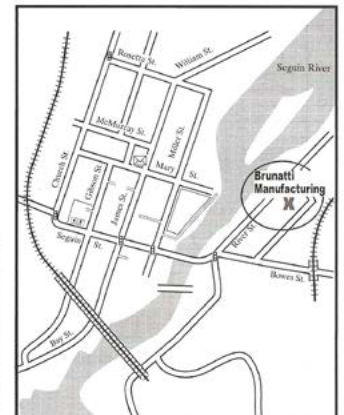
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Treasurer & Membership Report

Steven Neugebauer

Treasurer Report

As of October 9, 2020, our combined bank/savings balance was \$58,417. The fund activity is summarized below:

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$7,200	\$5,060
Expense	\$7,412	\$0
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$212)	\$5,060
Balance on 01-Jan-2020	\$9,718	\$40,790
Balackce at 09-Oct-2020	\$9,505	\$45,850

Our financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 will be available at the 2021 Annual General Meeting in July, as well as an update to our financial position at that time.

Membership Report

As of October 9, 2020, 108 memberships of the Crane Lake Association have paid their dues for 2020! Thank you to those members who continue to support the Crane Lake Association.

For those of you who have not yet sent in your 2020 dues, I hope you will join the membership in 2020. The association dues for 2020 are \$100. The benefits of membership in the Crane Lake Association include:

- Winter, Spring and Fall Newsletters highlighting upcoming events and current issues
- Entitlement to vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Participation in the Crane Lake Regatta
- Maintenance and renewal of our fire pumps, fire boat, defibrillator and other fire protection and life-saving equipment
- Representation in matters of mutual interest pertaining to the Crane Lake community.

Due may be paid by Interac e-Transfer to Steven Neugebauer – CLA.Steve1@gmail.com, or forward your cheque payable to the Crane Lake Association, to the Membership Secretary:

Steven Neugebauer, 81 Wrendale Crescent, Keswick, ON, L4P 4C7, Canada

Please include your account number on your e-Transfer/cheque; and please do not send cash by mail.

CLA Board of Directors

2020-2021

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Monica Gemeinhardt - Vice President
Steven Neugebauer - Treasurer
Carolyn Ferreira - Secretary
Fred Nagy - Past President
Alysha Ferguson - Member at Large
Ross Fraser - Communications
Brian Harris - Member at Large
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Steve Ridout - Member at Large
Bruce Sanderson - Fire Safety Committee Chair
Oliver Woodburn - Member at Large
contactus@cranelakeassociation.ca

Pandemic Kayaking Adventures

Monica Gemeinhardt

Kayaking is an ideal way to get out on the water, get some fresh air and exercise, while socializing at a distance with friends during the pandemic. Cindy Brandon, Carolyn Ferreira, Tory McMahon and Monica Gemeinhardt have been paddling up a storm this summer. We started in mid-June and have kayaked together more than 30 times to date. We have visited many bays and adjoining lakes, awed by what nature had in store for us each and every outing. We have been joined by friends and family members from time to time on our precious Crane Lake.



We have visited the Duck Marsh, Overflow, Bathtub, Homestead and Green's Bays (where we saw a weasel-type animal along the shore). We have spotted loon nests on our way to the dam, on Speck (Thompson's) Lake, and behind Marshall Island.

In addition, we have portaged into Corbier (Alice) Lake for a peaceful tour of the ribbon of life.

The dam is always an adventure. One morning, off Kansik Point, a beaver swam under our boats.



We have had multiple mornings on Stonehouse (Beaver) Lake. We have yet to spot a beaver there, though. One morning, near Mik Island, Cindy observed the sunlight bouncing off something unusual in the middle of the lake. Not a boat, not a canoe but a moose swimming to the shore!

We have also discovered a porcupine perched on the rocky shore in that lake.

On a perfect mid summer morning we met at 5:30 for a sunrise kayak, looking over Kitty Island toward Van Koughnett's Bay. The colours started about half an hour before the sunrise and entertained us for an hour. Carolyn said "While we had to get up at 4:30 am, the colours of the sunrise in the awakening sky were well worth the effort!"



We have also enjoyed a sunset kayak in the north end, looking into Snaggy Bay.

Yes, we have kayaked off the lake, too. On a rainy, windy morning in August, we drove to Snug Harbour where we met our guide who decided our Georgian Bay trip was a go. We had a windy, wavy paddle in The Bay, past The Lighthouse and up the west side of Franklin Island.



At one point, our guide clipped one of our kayaks to his, and towed it through a rough open patch. We wound our way into a channel, where we had our picnic lunches perched on a rock face, looking over a dozen yachts in the safe harbour. Our guide, in his wisdom, after lunch led us through sheltered channels back to our pier. He reported that we had paddled over 11 kilometres, in winds up to 30

kilometres an hour, the highest he will tolerate for a paddle in that area.

Early one September morning, we put the kayaks into the north end of Blackstone (thanks for the lifts and launches, guys!) where the road skirts the lake.

It was a beautiful sunny, ultra-calm day, after days of unsettled windy weather. The paddle through the river was the best part. Atmospheric, gentle, mysterious.

We reached Lorna Island at about noon. Taking advantage of the sun on the rocky shore, we had our individual picnics. (Thanks, Kathy Fenwick, for the permission!) The lake remained smooth for our homebound paddle through the narrows. Two of us continued to the very north end of Crane so we could say we had kayaked the total length of both lakes in one day. We reached that goal about 3 o'clock, having paddled 14 kilometers. It was a glorious day.



Some of us hope to kayak into November while we remain on the Lake. We hope we are in for many more adventures in the months and years to come.

On a final note, during one of our recent kayaks, we spotted a heron before we entered the small river into Stonehouse. Tory noted "It didn't seem at all anxious to leave, as if it had learned to tolerate our presence." Finally, he took flight as pictured

Monica

Photos provided courtesy of Cindy Brandon & Tory McMahon

Electricity Pricing

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

As reported in FOCA's September Elert, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has ruled that Hydro One must eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class. FOCA is extremely concerned about the financial impacts of this change on the estimated 78,000 seasonal customers that will be moving to the R2 (low density) residential class and will face increases of \$60/month or more, based on Hydro One's last estimates. Read more, including how to determine whether you will be reclassified as low- or medium-density, on FOCA's webpage:

<https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>

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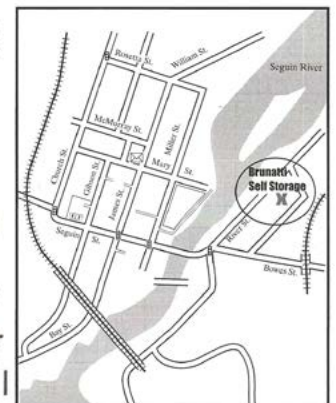
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Fire Safety. When Can I...?

Bruce Sanderson

Crane Lake is situated in the Township of the Archipelago. The Township has bylaws that must be followed in order for all property owners to be safe and live harmoniously and to protect and preserve the natural space which attracts us here and is the source of our enjoyment.

Specifically related to fire safety, the Township has enacted certain bylaws that must be adhered to. Failure to follow these bylaws will result in monetary penalties and could threaten the safety of people, cottages and the forest.

When Can I Set Off Fireworks?

By-law No. 2017-20 regulates setting off Consumer Fireworks within the Township. It says:

- You CANNOT set off fireworks when the Fire Rating is HIGH or EXTREME or when a FIRE BAN is declared. See below how to find out the current Fire Rating in the Township.
- Respecting the above restriction, you CAN set off fireworks ONLY on Victoria Day (the last Monday preceding May 25th), Canada Day (July 1st) and U.S. Independence Day (July 4th) AND the one day immediately preceding and / or following each of these days. Therefore if July 4th fell on a Wednesday, you would NOT be able to set off fireworks on the following weekend.
- On the dates allowed above, you CAN set off fireworks ONLY between the hours of 6pm and 11pm.
- You CANNOT set off Firecrackers or Sky Lanterns AT ANY TIME within the Township. These items are strictly prohibited.
- When you set off fireworks you must follow recognized safety procedures including, but not limited to:
 - No person under the age of eighteen (18) may set off fireworks except under the direct supervision of and control of a person eighteen years of age or older.
 - You must protect private and public property
 - You must have suitable fire extinguishing equipment available at all times

- Property damage or injury as a result of the discharge of Fireworks is the responsibility of the person and/or organization setting off the fireworks.

Fines for setting off Fireworks in contravention of the By-law run from \$250 to \$425 depending on the infraction and the current Fire Rating.

When Can I Have a Campfire?

By-law No. 2017-21 regulates Open Burning in the Township. It says:

- You CANNOT start a camp fire at your cottage when the Fire Rating is HIGH or EXTREME or when a FIRE BAN is declared. See below how to find out the current Fire Rating in the Township.
- Respecting the above restriction, you CAN start a camp fire ONLY after 6pm and you must extinguish it no later than 2am the following day.
- The fire must be no larger than one (1) metre in circumference and one (1) metre high and be at least five (5) metres from any combustible structures or objects.
- A responsible person must be in charge of the fire and remain in line-of-sight of the fire at all times.
- There must be materials, devices or resources on hand to immediately contain and extinguish the fire if necessary.
- Conditions must exist so the fire burns safely and must not have an adverse impact on people or property.
- Only clean wood can be used as fuel for a campfire (NOT household garbage, rubber, plastic, petroleum, pressure treated wood, chemicals, etc.)

Fines for Campfires in contravention of the By-law run from \$250 to \$425 depending on the infraction and the current Fire Rating.

So, Can I Set Off Fireworks on Long Weekends like Civic Holiday, Labour Day and Thanksgiving?

Uh..no. As stated above, Fireworks are only allowed on 3 specific dates of the year and the days before and after each of these dates. For example, as the Victoria Day holiday is always a Monday, you can set off Fireworks on that Sunday night (not Saturday), so long as the Fire Rating allows. Please review the Fireworks section again.

How Do I Found Out the Current Fire Rating in the Township?

It is easy to determine the current Fire Rating by visiting the home page of the TOA website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. The current Fire Rating is clearly shown in the bottom banner, and clicking the link will take you to the full chart with an explanation of each category. There are also signs on Blackstone Crane Lake Road and Healey Lake Road to indicate the current Fire Rating.

Additional Information:

Please note that Property Owners are responsible for the actions of their family members, guests and renters occupying the property. This includes any fines levied and any recovery of costs relative to the investigation of a complaint about Fireworks or Campfire infractions, or the dispatching of Municipal Law Enforcement or Fire Fighting personnel and equipment. Please ensure anyone occupying the property when you are not there is aware of the By-laws and safety procedures.

If anyone observes a By-law infraction, they can contact the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer directly at 705-774-3630, leave a message at their office at 705-746-4243 ext. 324, or send an e-mail to fire@vianet.ca.

These By-laws can be found in their entirety on the TOA website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca. there are also two handy "Information & Safety Guidelines" documents that can be found in the By-laws section of the website under the "Fire And Emergencies" folder. One is for Fireworks and one is for Outdoor Burning.

If you have any other "When Can I...?" questions or any other questions related to Fire Safety, don't hesitate to contact Bruce Sanderson at firesafety@cranelakeassociation.com. Stay Safe!

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A Tale of a Thousand Turtles

Georgian Bay Biosphere



Originally published on <https://www.gbbr.ca/news/a-tale-of-a-thousand-turtles/>

As the sun shines on the edge of a large wetland, over 100 turtles await their return home as staff of the Georgian Bay Biosphere carry them through the reeds. Three large containers hold the turtle hatchlings, each between four and ten days old. These are just some of the hatched turtles of the 1,115 eggs that were collected and incubated and will all be released.

A safe distance from the road, the hatchlings are lowered to greet the shallow water all along the wetland's edge. Within seconds, their small dark shells are no longer visible as they swim and hide in the murky water that is hopefully their home for decades to come. "*Baamapii mishiikenh*" Biosphere staff say, Anishabemowin for "see you later snapping turtle".

The story of how these little turtles came to be in the care of Biosphere staff began in 2019 with the announcement of Environment & Climate Change Canada's "Community Nominated Priority Place" (CNPP) designation. This is a special recognition of the ongoing conservation work in this region – one of only 15 such places in Canada – that came with funding over four years to support biodiversity work. The eastern coast of Georgian Bay was selected because of the variety and health of species and because of the highly networked and collaborative approaches to conservation that exist and can be strengthened.

The CNPP application was submitted by the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) and co-applicants Shawanaga First Nation, Magnetawan First Nation and Georgian Bay Land Trust, with considerable support from Wasauksing First Nation and neighbouring municipalities. Each partner is involved in planning and implementing projects related to biodiversity.

One of the largest threats to all wildlife, especially reptiles-at-risk, is road mortality. Through the CNPP project, a significant amount of time and resources are being devoted to road-focused projects. Every native species of turtle in Ontario is a species-at-



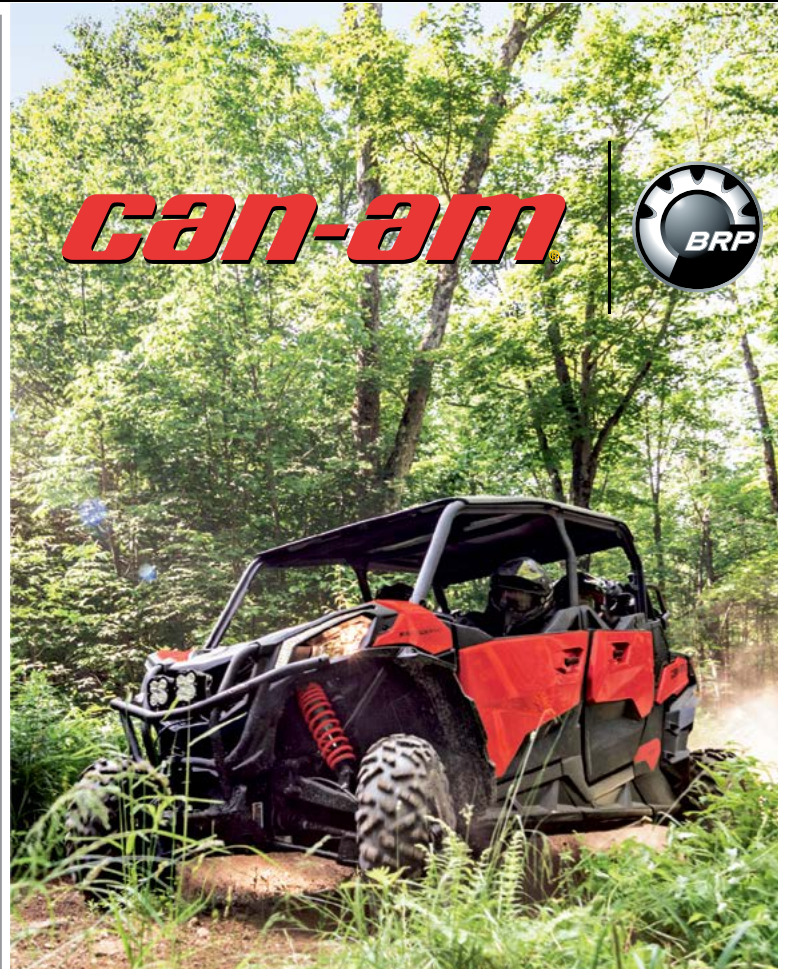
risk, as are several snake species which is why they require special attention.

In 2020, Skerryvore Community Road, 15 minutes north of Parry Sound in the Township of the Archipelago, was deemed a priority due to the extensive culvert replacement work needed and known reptile abundance. The Biosphere team worked with the township, Tatham Engineering Limited, and Hall's Construction to mitigate the project impacts and improve reptile safety post-construction. Strategies include using a cobble fill instead of sand near wetlands to discourage turtle nesting there, creating new nesting zones away from the road, and removing and incubating turtle eggs from construction areas in the spring, and releasing the hatchlings later in the season.

In Ontario, turtle eggs are laid in June and hatch sometime in late August depending on the summer's weather conditions. The Skerryvore culvert construction was scheduled for July and August. This overlap in timing necessitated a plan to mitigate the impacts to nests in the construction zones. "Since June, we've surveyed Skerryvore Community Road by bike for six days each week and Highways 559 and 529 multiple times a week" says Tianna Burke, Conservation Biologist with the GBBR. Over 9,000 km will have been travelled by mountain and electric bikes by the end of the project.



"In June, we found 137 nests and at 42 of these we removed eggs to protect them; however, the



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rest were scavenged by natural predators which shows how few actually make it into the wild" Burke said. "Working alongside the Hall's Construction crew, we were alerted to six additional nests that were safely removed. We had over 1,100 eggs in special incubators and after they hatched, each turtle was safely released to their original wetland. They are self-sufficient from the moment they hatch, so we only keep them for a few days while they build their strength," explains Burke.

The handling of turtles for this project was permitted by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and would be illegal otherwise. "Caring for turtle eggs is very technical, with the right incubating equipment, temperatures and constant monitoring, and requires proper permits," says Burke.

Road surveys have continued throughout the summer to record all snake and additional turtle observations. This information may identify wildlife crossing hotspots and inform future mitigation ideas. "We've recorded over 300 snake and non-nesting turtle observations so far this summer. There have been very few deceased turtles on the road, people have been very vigilant and are moving turtles off the road" said Burke.

Another significant project component has been the incorporation of Indigenous traditional knowledge into both the project as a whole and daily work. An Anishinaabek ceremony was held at the first turtle release to recognize the safe return of all the turtles to the wetlands.

Through the teachings of Sherrill Judge, *Maawaanji'iwe* (brings people together) Manager with GBBR, and Gracie Crafts, summer student and member of Wasauksing First Nation, Biosphere staff incorporate a *asemma* (tobacco) offering into daily road surveys. This is meant to be a step toward a "two-eyed seeing" cultural approach to conservation work that incorporates both Indigenous and western scientific ways of learning and sharing knowledge.

"By offering *semma*, we acknowledge and provide thanks to creation for the knowledge we gain. In return we promise that we will use this knowledge for the benefit of the land" said Judge. "Turtles hold a special place within Anishinaabek culture. In our creation stories, the continent that settlers call North America was formed on the back of Turtle. This is why many Indigenous peoples refer to this land as Turtle Island." This project and other conservation efforts under CNPP will continue next spring and summer. Biosphere staff plan to have a larger role for the public in the future, and continue to encourage reporting of all wildlife sightings to the [Georgian Bay Biosphere Project within the iNaturalist app](#) on personal devices. [Turtle Trauma Kits have been made available for sale on the Biosphere's website](#). Kits are \$20 and contain everything that's needed to handle injured turtles on roadways. A new "[Turtles on Roads Guide](#)" has also been created to assist people who want to help. Copies are available for free download on gbb.ca or can be picked up at the Biosphere office at 11 James Street in Parry Sound.



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