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President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

It is that time of year in Canada when, traditionally, we try to take time to gather with family and friends at the end of the summer season to enjoy the early fall harvests and be thankful for the good things in life. We have just ended another COVID-tainted spring & summer with continuing related restrictions and limitations, and this alone, unfortunately, is sufficient to dampen our spirits. So, instead, let's try to recall the experiences that lifted our spirits so far this year! Those precious moments that are so worth remembering as a community:

- We welcomed our new operators of Blue Crane Marina in early summer!
- With warm hearts we welcomed back our US neighbours in late summer!
- We enjoyed a terrific 'Regatta' Day with a well attended Poker Run and Fire Safety Quiz!
- The sailors enjoyed another great Sailboat Competition!
- Crane Lake offered its pristine waters once again for swimming, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing, loon habitats, and our simple quiet vista pleasure!
- The weather in August was gorgeous!
- And, if you were lucky, you witnessed the stunning Harvest Moon in late September – and it pretty much took your breath away!

Of course, Mother Nature continues to create havoc from time to time, and this fall she made certain we took notice! The extreme rainfall in September resulted in property damage, and loose items were found floating around the lake as the rising water levels took charge. Fortunately, the MNR staff attended promptly and frequently at our dam to control the flow out of Crane at a reasonable and safe rate.

Throughout this summer, as you know, Crane Lake participated in a project undertaken by the MNR related to their **Broad Scale Monitoring standard fisheries program**. The Ministry asked us to call in to the MNR if we caught a tagged fish. Well, the project on Crane Lake has now concluded and the Ministry has confirmed there is no further need to call if a tagged fish is captured. The Ministry extended its thanks to the Crane Lake community for its cooperation throughout the project. You will recall that nets were set out in the early Spring and 1800 fish were successfully tagged/marked, and those nets then removed. In late June, late July, and late August the MNR staff then set 64 monofilament mesh nets in random locations around the lake – as per their standard program protocols. These nets were approximately 50 metres in length and 2 metres in height – and were set at various depth ranges. During this 'recapture' period, the following tagged fish were recorded:

- 53 smallmouth bass (they have, with some confidence, determined that smallmouth bass dominate the Crane Lake fishery)
- 3 pike
- 1 rock bass
- 3 large mouth bass

Other fish (not previously tagged/marked) that were caught and released included lake trout, walleye, pumpkinseed, yellow perch and brown bullhead.

Throughout the project, they did not catch a black crappie, nor a muskie – apparently, they say, not too unusual, since they are very difficult to catch (I believe this is what most individuals fishing will also attest to at the end of a day!). They did, however, catch a few turtles, but all were released unharmed. No loons, ducks or other wildlife were captured throughout this project. We anticipate receipt from the Ministry of their final report sometime next spring, which we look forward to sharing with you.

As we head, (perhaps somewhat unwillingly) into the winter season, but nonetheless excitedly into the New Year, on behalf of your CLA Board, we wish each of you the very best of good health and happiness - and much hope that our lives will return to the normalcy we crave – the ability to gather together once again to enjoy each other's storytelling, hugs and laughter! Happy Thanksgiving!

Crane Lake Resort Update

The McLennan Family

As owners of the former Crane Lake Resort we will be passing control over to the new cottagers at Crane Lake Estates. Some of the occupants already have connections to the lake and the rest are very happy to have discovered this beautiful area. It is great to see the place alive again with families enjoying the property and all that Crane Lake has to offer. We feel confident that they all have a vested interest in preserving this lovely lake and joining the Crane Lake Community.

We would like to remind everyone that the area is now a privately owned community and therefore would ask the cottagers on the lake to please respect their land and waterfront the same way others expect people to respect their cottages and privacy.

We are also pleased that Blue Crane Lake Marina was able to become operational this past summer and that they are interested in continuing to service Crane and Blackstone Lake cottagers. They've been a welcome addition to the lake.

Our family has enjoyed the beauty of Crane Lake for 25 years and are pleased to welcome and share this wonderful lake with a new group of cottagers.

Looking forward to many more years at Crane Lake,
The McLennan Family

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2021-2022

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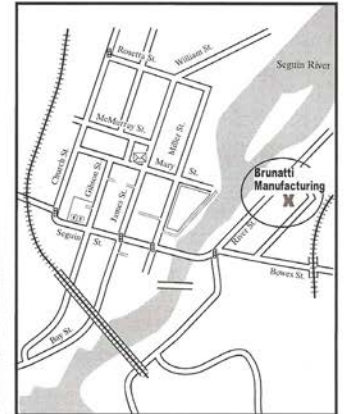
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Treasurer & Membership Report

Steven Neugebauer

Treasurer Report

As of September 15, 2021, our combined bank/savings balance was \$62,962. The fund activity is summarized below:

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$9,416	\$5,400
Expense	\$5,862	\$150
Net Gain (Loss)	\$3,524	\$5,250
Balance on 01-Jan-2021	\$9,414	\$44,774
Balance at 15-Sep-2021	\$12,938	\$50,024

Our financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 will be available at the 2022 Annual General Meeting in July, as well as an update to our financial position at that time.

Membership Report

As of September 15, 2021, 118 memberships of the Crane Lake Association have paid their dues for 2021! Thank you to those members who support the Crane Lake Association.

For those of you who have not yet sent in your 2021 dues, I hope you will join the membership in 2021. The association dues for 2021 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, defibrillators and other fire protection and life-saving equipment
- Representation in matters of mutual interest pertaining to the Crane Lake community.

Dues 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.

Time for Us Lakers to Look After Loons!

Kate Lissauer



Our love and care for our local wildlife is something that we share as a community, and part of our relationship to each other and to the lake is to encourage this sense of wonder and the responsibility that comes with it. Our appreciation of our resident loons is one of the best examples of this. I doubt there is anyone on Crane who hasn't sat with friends at some late or early hour, in peaceful camaraderie, carried away on the beautiful and nostalgic call of the loon. It is in large part thanks to my late mother, Lois Lissauer, that I have a sense of caring and responsibility toward the wildlife of Crane Lake, and I think that is why I would like to undertake a project to help the loons. Lois was a longstanding member of the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, and I have inherited her white hat that says so. So I am going to carry on with her job.

You will have seen emails from Ian Mead and others, imploring us to avoid making wakes at the shoreline. One key reason for this is that loons must nest right on the perimeter of the lake. They can't walk on land, so they must position their nests so that the nest will be dry, but the loon can still climb onto it. Naturally, therefore, they choose the places with the calmest water they can find. A wake, when it hits the shore, sloshes water up onto the land, and if a nest is there, it will be saturated. It only takes one wake to flood a nest. Then, that loon family's chances of reproducing for that year are wiped out in an instant.

We have in the past had successful loon reproduction on Crane, because there have been sufficient calm areas of shoreline for nests to be built. There were, formerly, such locations in each part of the lake. However, I heard with great concern that this year, no one had seen a baby loon.

If we examine how we use the Crane Lake water these days, we'll see how much has changed, from the loons' perspective. When I was a child, what we then called a 'big boat' was a boat with a steering wheel, and those were usually powered by a motor of about 40 to 80 horsepower. The only bigger boat we knew of was the Kansik's 150 hp inboard/outboard, which caused great excitement every time it came into view because it was an anomaly. Now, most cottagers have big, powerful, fast boats which are capable of producing bulky wakes, especially upon acceleration or deceleration, which occur when they are close to shore. At high speeds, the wakes are smaller, but have more momentum so they still hit the shore with a strong impact.

Also, we take our big boats to the quiet bays for towing skiers, wakeboarders and tubers, because we want the calm water. Hence the North End, for example, a haven for water birds, gets regular visits from powerboats looping around and pounding out their wakes. (I'm not pointing the finger. I do this too. But there's plenty of room in the North End to ski without going near the marshy bays.) Large wake producing boats often now go into the quiet bays at high speeds, presumably for sightseeing purposes, or just for the fun of navigating in small spaces. But those bays are the ones that contain a bit of swamp environment—the shallow marshy shoreline water that loons need for nestbuilding.

So the first thing we can do is try to educate all of our community about the need to stop damaging the ecosystem of the shoreline with our wakes. Ian and the CLA have been working on this. Let's all keep trying to do better and remind our friends and neighbours of the issues.

However, being realistic, we must realise that our boats are too big for our environment, but we will be unlikely

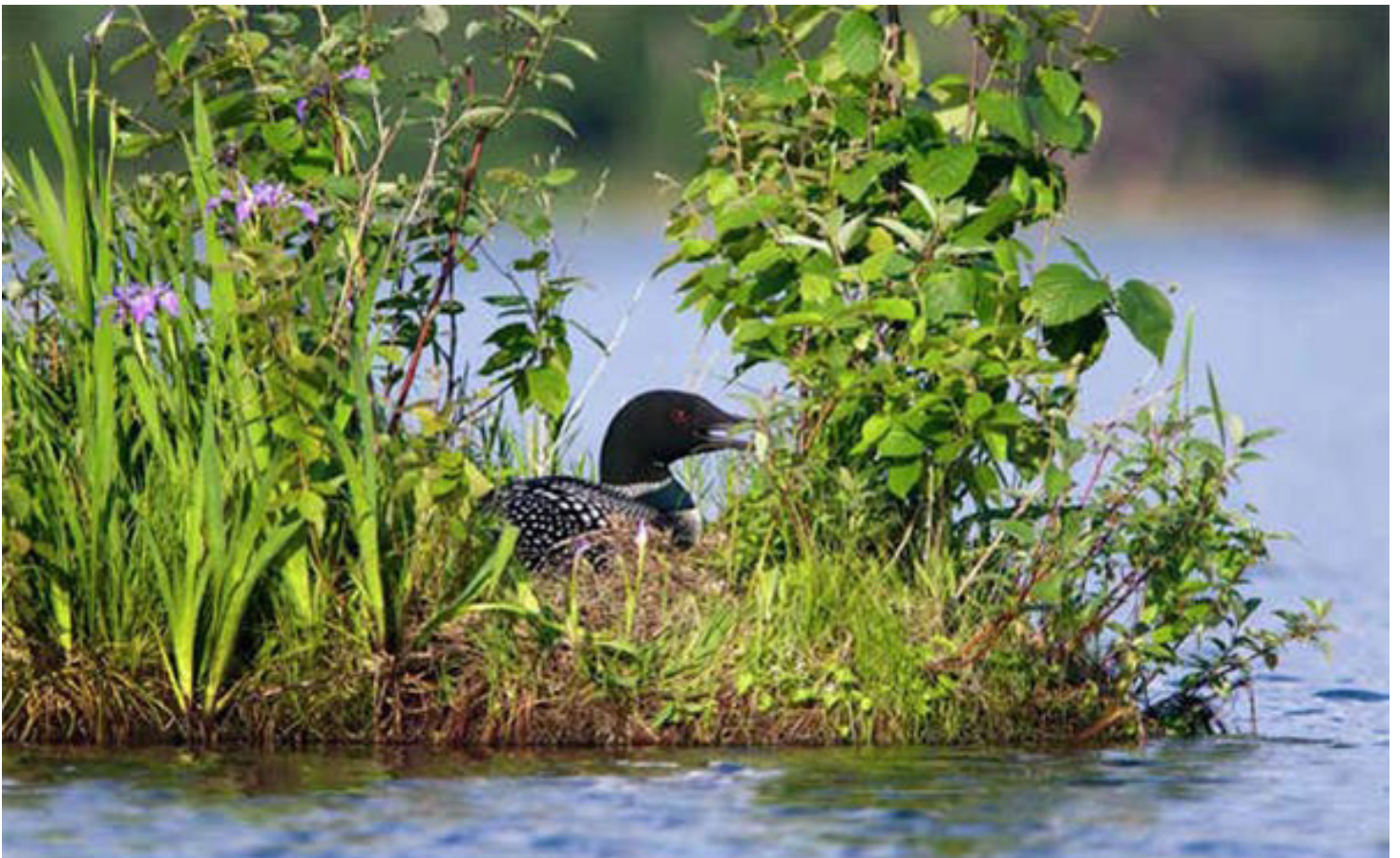
to turn the tide. People are very often going to continue to be human and put their fun first without considering its impact.

In addition to the hazard presented by boats, we have fluctuating water levels in Crane, which are managed to some degree by the dam, but cannot always be relied upon to remain within a margin of tolerance for the loon.

I have become aware of a simple and effective aid for our loons which I want to suggest that we try—artificial nesting platforms. They float, and therefore keep the loon's nest out of fluctuating water. The platforms look easy to build, but there are several factors that must be taken into account such as positioning, protection from predators, shade, maintenance, and repositioning for winter. We will also likely need to get permission from our local authorities to place platforms in the lake.

The Loon Survey is part of Bird Studies Canada, which can provide most of what we need to know about nesting platforms. Here is a link to one of their very informative documents: <https://www.birdscanada.org/download/CLLSloonplatform.pdf>.

I'd like to know who is interested in helping with a project to supply Crane with nesting platforms. If you already have some knowledge, please share it with us. I will also set up a fundraising site in honour of Lois Lissauer, dedicated to helping to make this happen. More information about that, and anything else we need to know, will be forthcoming via Ian Mead's email communication.



Doesn't that look cosy! This artificial nesting platform is camouflaged with appropriate vegetation, and anchored to the lake bottom.

Important Reminder for Water Access Cottagers | Fire Safety

Bruce Sanderson



From time-to-time things will occur that catch people off guard. While our emergency procedures are not perfect by any means, we endeavour to cover most of the situations that might come up. Case in point, an unfortunate situation happened at a water access cottage on Crane Lake earlier this summer. A guest at that cottage fell and badly broke an ankle. As per normal procedures, the cottage owner called 911 and told them they needed an ambulance. They told the 911 operator that they would meet the ambulance at the Crane Lake Marina. When the ambulance arrived at the marina, the paramedics were not happy to find out that the cottage was water access. This detail had not been mentioned in the 911 call. Furthermore, after the cottage owner transported the paramedics to the cottage so they could assess the patient and prepare them for transport, the paramedics had to carry the patient down several stairs to get to the cottage dock and then back to the marina.

The reason the paramedics were not happy is because the normal procedure for water access cottages (or a rescue situation off the road), is that a Fire Department crew would also be dispatched. The Fire Department would bring its own boat and its personnel would transport the Paramedics by water and assist in transporting a patient over rough terrain, or as in this case, down the stairs. On Crane Lake, the Seguin Rescue Squad would be the one to respond along with the paramedics.

Concerned about this nuance, the cottage owner did some research afterwards to find out how this situation could be prevented in the future. What was discovered is that the Emergency Reference Sheet created by the Crane Lake Association several years ago and re-issued most recently as an insert in the Crane Lake Association "Preserving Paradise" binder, has a notation that covers this situation specifically. Directly under the bold heading "For Police, Fire or Ambulance support, Dial 911", is this notation: **"If you are water access only, tell the (911) dispatcher. Police and Fire have their own boats. Seguin Fire is dispatched with Ambulance calls to provide water transport."**

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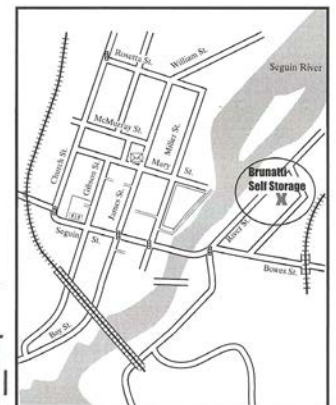
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When the cottage owner contacted me to tell this story, I admitted that even I might be guilty of forgetting this detail in the heat of the moment when on the phone with 911. I was on the Fire Safety Committee when Jim Hart (the previous Fire Safety Committee Chairman) developed this wording to add to the Emergency Reference Sheet. However, because I have a road access cottage, this detail wouldn't be an issue for me.

This situation serves to remind us that we must continually educate ourselves about safety and safety procedures. The Preserving Paradise binder is a great cottage reference with a beautiful painting on the front, but its contents and safety information are only truly valuable when read and utilized. It should not be something that we sit down and read when we have nothing else to do, but as a specific assignment for every family member. The Emergency Reference Sheet should not still be in the pocket in the front of the binder, but instead posted prominently on the wall near a telephone or a frequently used doorway or cottage gathering room and reviewed frequently with specific procedures for your own cottage in mind.

If you do not have an updated Emergency Reference Sheet (the most recent one is printed on yellow card stock), please don't hesitate to contact us and we can print one for you or send you a PDF that you can print yourself. I would also be happy to answer any of your questions regarding emergency procedures. You can reach me at firesafety@cranelakeassociation.com. Enjoy the rest of your year on Crane Lake!

Bruce Sanderson,
Chairman, Fire Safety Committee



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Sitting on the Dock of the Bay

Glen Gray

What a beautiful day this September Saturday is as I sit on the dock and look out on what we have here on Crane Lake and wonder a little about how long or if it will continue as we know it. I won't get too philosophical or environmental as I ease into a few thoughts I was thinking. I'm sure we can all do a little better, including myself at being better stewards of the lake and by extension the world. Sounds heavy but I have just a few stray thoughts at present to stimulate a conversation.

I've almost completely stopped buying bottled water. Hooray! Instead of dozens of cases per year I'm down to one, maybe two, for emergencies, whatever they might be. I'll work on getting that lower but a giant step for me and baby steps from now on to get better. How can they sell 24 bottles for \$1.49 on sale (and then someone sells each bottle for a buck or two)? It can't be good for the world. Is that really what we want to do? What are the alternatives?

This spring a large log floated onto my beach. It was not in a convenient place for me, so I moved it along to another place on my shore and secured it in place. In the old days we would have likely floated it over to some bay that already had lots of logs in it. I'm hoping it will provide some protection of the shoreline, a habitat for some small fish and maybe some day a turtle will crawl up on it to sun itself. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

We should stop thinking of our lake as a dumping place for stuff we don't want. Somehow an old dock with deteriorating orange styrofoam blocks, a rubber tire bumper and at least one board of pressure treated lumber was rotting away in a marsh connected to our lake. I don't know how it got there but somebody did own it at some point maybe a long time ago and it ended up there as someone's garbage (out of sight, out of mind), a blight, probably toxic, on a pretty marsh habitat. A motley crew of three of us managed through tricky maneuvering to remove it and will properly dispose of the worst of it and maybe repurpose some of the gnarly old boards into signs or picture frames or something interesting. The marsh is the better without it.



Thinking along the same lines I heard recently that an old bathtub was sunk into a deep part of the lake. Out of sight, out of mind? Is it toxic, I don't know but the optics are not very good. I suppose if one did it under cover of darkness there would be no optics but is it right? Is that what our lake is for? A long time ago rivers were a convenient means to get rid of stuff. Out of sight, out of mind. I think we all know how that turned out.

Back to my dock on this wonderful day, what are my modest conclusions? I had an interesting adventure removing an old, discarded dock from the marsh and met an interesting environmentally conscious person. I created a new habitat along my shore that I hope will prove useful. I'm happy I've almost stopped buying bottled water and I left time to think about what I might be putting into the lake that I shouldn't.

These random thoughts are not addressing the bigger questions of boating behaviour, leaking septic systems or invasive species but maybe these smaller issues are also something to think about, if you have time. That's what crossed my mind, sitting on the dock of the bay, (hopefully not) wastin' time, as the song says.

To the Avoidance of Rocks & Shoals

Bruce Sanderson

The high water levels on Crane Lake have certainly been unprecedented this summer, due mostly to the excessive rainfall we have experienced for most of this cottaging season.

Then, just when we thought things were starting to return to normal, the torrential rainfalls during the week of September 20-24 reminded everyone of the power of nature, with many docks around the lake becoming submerged and uncovered boats without automatic bilge pumps at risk of (or actually) sinking.

The word "Flood" definitely jumps to mind when your fixed dock has disappeared and your dock chairs look like they are sitting on top of the water, defying gravity.

In addition to any shoreline issues and the liberation of some docks and other items, creating floating hazards to the chagrin of both their owners and boaters alike, this ongoing higher water level has also caused some previously visible permanent navigation hazards to become hidden, or at least, much less obvious.

We must therefore ensure we don't let our guard down and diligently practice the most fundamental of boating safety rules:

"Proceed at a safe speed when travelling in unfamiliar waters". A "safe speed" would be a speed at which we would have time and distance to stop if we were to come upon a submerged hazard like a rock or shoal.

This conveniently dovetails with another safety law which specifies that you must travel at 10kph or less when driving your boat within 30 metres from shore. Since most of the not always visible or just under the water navigation hazards on Crane Lake fall within about 30 metres from shore, and the ones that don't are marked by yellow safety buoys placed by the Crane Lake Association, a slow speed close to shore is doubly appropriate.

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Tip: The Crane Lake Cottagers Map has the most prominent and dangerous rocks and shoals marked on it. Familiarize yourself with these locations.

If you're an avid fisherman and have been casting into Crane Lake waters for many years, you probably know the lake and its underwater topology intimately. For the rest of us, it's important to always be cautious and never assume unbroken water isn't hiding something underneath.

Be careful out there, for the sake of your boat and the safety of your passengers and yourself. Be hazard aware!

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2021 Sailing Race Report

Steven Neugebauer



The 2021 Sailing Race was held in the northern part of the lake. The race was scheduled for Sunday, August 1st, but with a rainy day forecast the race was postponed to Monday, August 2nd. The day was nice and sunny, and the winds started out light and became moderate and even a little gusty during the race. Had we known the winds would get stronger, we could have extended the race easily to 7 or perhaps even 10 legs!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our race-day helpers Bruce, Carolyn, Sean, Max and his friend!

We had two participants in the under 18 category, so we held the Junior Sailing race this year. Both were sailing Picos, and it was very close. In the end Dylan Follett prevailed. Congratulations Dylan and we hope to see you, Paul and more sailors next year!

We had four participants competing for the Championship race. Chuck and his granddaughter Lele were the only two-person team, sailing their recently purchased Albacore sailboat for the first time. They were the last boat to cross the starting line, but that did not deter them. When the stronger wind gusts came, they really had to hike it out there. But with two of them hiking, they could really pickup on the speed! In the end they triumphed, just 30 seconds ahead of Bob. Congratulations Chuck and Lele! Hope to see you and others again next year.

The final stats on the Junior Sailing race:

Place	Skipper	Vessel	Elapsed
1	Dylan Follett	Pico	0:28:30
2	Paul Neugebauer	Pico	0:28:50

The final stats on the Championship Sailing race:

Place	Skipper	Vessel	Elapsed
1	Chuck Erion & Lele Addico	Albacore	0:21:20
2	Bob Neugebauer	JY 15	0:22:10
3	John Collins	Lazer	0:25:15
	Klaus Faisst	Windsurfer	D.N.F.

There was no post-race get-together again this year. Hopefully next year will be different!



Fire Pump Poker Run 2021

Now That Was Fun!

Oliver Woodburn

I'd say that the summer of '21 still wasn't what we're used to on Crane Lake, but thankfully we were able to connect with each other a little better than in 2020.

With safety in mind your CLA Regatta organizers set out to develop some fun, interactive, safe and even educational activities to replace our annual Crane Lake Association Regatta.

By combining our goals of 'fun community building' and 'fire safety awareness & education', we created two new events for our membership.

Our first ever Crane Lake Online Fire Safety Quiz went live at the end of July following 6 weeks of educational posts in our weekly e-newsletter and a newly created Fire & Water Safety flyer that was distributed electronically. Armed with all that knowledge cottagers enthusiastically completed the online quiz. I'm happy to report that almost all questions were answered correctly over 85% of the time.

However, one question was answered incorrectly by 56% of respondents which I feel is important to address:

"If there is a fire on Crane Lake and the fire department has been notified, they will arrive by:"

CORRECT: Boat – 44% of respondents

WRONG: Fire Truck – 56% of respondents

If a cottage fire is reported to 911 and Seguin Township Fire Department is dispatched to Crane Lake, they will ALWAYS arrive by water on their Fire Boat; even if the cottage has road access. The reason they do not arrive by road is that very few cottages have a driveway that a 40-foot pumper truck can access AND turnaround at the bottom to leave from. This is why you're encouraged to make sure your green reflective address signs are clearly visible from the lake.

Respondents who got 100% on the quiz were put into a draw and 2 lucky winners received a new fire extinguisher for their cottage.

Fire Safety Quiz Winners:

1. Wendy Thomson on South Crane Lake Road
2. Sarah Schreiner on Crane Walker Road

The Crane Lake Fire Pump Poker Run on Saturday July 31st was also quite popular despite the questionable weather. We shortened the event by one hour due to a rain forecast that was actually accurate; the rain started just 10 minutes after the event ended.

Boaters had to find all 5 fire pumps on the lake and collect a poker card from one of the volunteers stationed

at the pump. After 5 cards were collected and uploaded, we reviewed the poker hands that had been submitted and determined the top 3 winners with the best hand.

Poker Run Winners also received a new fire extinguisher for their cottage:

1. Cathy Collins on South Crane Lake Road
3 Kings
2. Ferguson Family on Blackstone-Crane Lake Road
Pair of 9's
3. Dylan, Max and Ruby on Crane Lake Water
Pair of 7's

Thank you again to everyone who participated and for all the volunteers who helped make the event a huge success.



Map Update

Monica Gemeinhardt

We have had excellent progress and our target for completion and distribution is the 2022 AGM! The updated version of the map will show new cottages replacing empty lots, new addresses for properties now serviced by roads, and tweaks of Fire Pump locations, hazards, etc. It will also show the new Crane Lake Estates condos and the Blue Crane Marina.

We are pleased with the overwhelming response of people who wish their names to be included on the accompanying Legend. We have received responses representing 170 cottages; a 72% response rate!

If you haven't yet gone online to provide your consent, there is still time. Visit: <https://www.cranelakeassociation.ca/lakemapupdate> and provide your consent today!

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