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## President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

The forest that surrounds Crane Lake is now busy preparing for its transition into the cold winter months ahead. It is always a magical time as we embrace the exceptional beauty of the leaves as they turn into a multitude of fall colours, creating a vista like no other. We might even take a few minutes to try to catch a few as they fall from the trees around us! This is the start of a new season that encourages us to take the initiative to stop and remember and give thanks for all that we are so fortunate to enjoy. This might include a gathering of family and friends, or perhaps just a few personal moments to walk quietly around the cottage to take it all in.

Of course, Thanksgiving weekend is also a trigger to many of us that starts the closing down process with the acknowledgement that the summer days are now behind us. But what a summer!! We were graced with so many days of blue skies and warm sunshine. Crane Lake greeted us with warm waters and the chance to engage in endless hours of water sports! So many memories were created this summer with the return of an 'almost' normal existence as we continue to emerge /evolve from the depths of the world-wide pandemic. Wow – it felt so good to be 'back'!

The Association's AGM was held in person this summer and was well attended allowing us a wonderful opportunity to 'meet and greet' our neighbours and friends again! The AGM was held for the first time away from the shores of Crane Lake, at the Log Cabin Inn. This venue offered us a lovely setting for the meeting and their hot coffee, tea and light breakfast buffet were perfect! Knowing that holding the AGM at an 'off-site' venue would be a change for all of us, we sent out a survey to all members. We were pleased that most of the responses from the survey were positive! We do understand the travel time required for an 'off-site' meeting and we will consider all the feedback we received as guidance for future venue selections.

At the AGM we were pleased to distribute the 2022 version of our Crane Lake map and Legend to those in attendance. For several weekends throughout August & September, the board continued to distribute over 150 maps! The last edition of our map was created in 2006, so if you do not yet have one of the new, updated maps, please let us know!

The Crane Lake history video was released this year to much praise, and we hope you each had the opportunity to view it. The link is below for your easy reference! The visual experience is definitely worth your time. It gives us a spectacular view of the lake

and includes the history of our forefathers and their wise stewardship and counsel so long ago creating the infrastructure for the same vision we have today for our Lake. I think you'll agree it evokes an incredible sense of pride to know we own a piece of this paradise! <http://www.cranelakeassociation.ca/history>.

As CLA President for the past 10 years I have enjoyed the privilege of working together with a very bright group of directors. Some stayed for a short term, others for many years. These individuals not only offer their personal time to the Association, but they bring a remarkable sense of commitment and passion to ensure the future of our Crane Lake community continues to follow the guidance set out by the first CLA directors over 40 years ago. Water quality continues to be one of our most important goals. Fire Safety remains incredibly important to all of us on Crane Lake, and we are so fortunate that this committee work has been led, over the past many years, by very keen and knowledgeable individuals. No less important is the continuing efforts of the CLA to impart education & awareness of boating and water safety, as well as other activities undertaken by the board through our communication to our members by newsletters and e-blasts!

In mid-November 2022 I will resign from the CLA Board of Directors. My new role as Councillor of the Township of the Archipelago will commence, and I look forward to the new challenges and excitement this position will bring with it. After 16 years of incredible guidance that Ian Mead has given us as Councillor, we are very thankful for his remarkable commitment to both Crane & Blackstone lakes.

As I resign from the CLA, a new President will take the helm. At the last board meeting, the directors unanimously appointed Ross Fraser. Ross has been on the board for many years, was Secretary for several years, and has since managed the communications for us with great ease, to the relief of most of us! I know you will all join me in welcoming Ross as President of the Crane Lake Association!

This is a difficult last paragraph to write as it will be my last as a CLA board member, a position I've enjoyed for a very long time. So, I'm keeping it very short. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this great Association, to meet some terrific individuals, and for the many smiles we've shared over the years!

## CLA Board of Directors

2022-2023 - As of November 15, 2022

**Ross Fraser - President**

**Monica Gemeinhardt - Vice President**

**Steven Neugebauer - Treasurer**

**Carolyn Ferreira - Secretary**

**Dianne Jennings - Director at Large**

**Fred Nagy - Past President**

**Alysha Ferguson - Director at Large**

**Brian Harris - Director at Large**

**Steve Ridout - Water Quality**

**Bruce Sanderson - Fire Safety Committee Chair**

**Oliver Woodburn - Director at Large**

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[firesafety@cranelakeassociation.ca](mailto:firesafety@cranelakeassociation.ca)



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# Councillor's Corner

Ian Mead

Here it is September 2022 and this will be my last "Councillor's Corner" as I have decided not to run again. It has been almost 16 years since I was first elected to Council and it has been a great experience for me. Thinking back, my 2 main objectives for running for Council 16 years ago were:

1. To try and have some effect on controlling taxes so that our kids could afford to inherit our cottage and
2. To try and have some effect on maintaining our lakes' water quality.

Well, I feel pretty good about our taxes. Looking back at our property tax in 2006 it was \$1564.00 and in 2022 it is \$1910.00 excluding the fire levy. So that is a 22.1% increase over 16 years or an average of 1.38% per year – less than inflation!. Now, I obviously can't take all the credit for that. It is a team effort and we are fortunate that Council has always been made up of business type people who are also die hard cottagers.

As far as water quality, I believe we still have excellent water quality and for sure the best in the district. Again, I can't claim to have had a major effect on water quality and again it is a team effort of which you are part of. The most important thing I brought to the table that will affect water quality is the need for shoreline vegetation preservation and that will hopefully be better controlled using the coming "Site Alteration Bylaw" AKA "Shoreline Preservation Bylaw". Also, I'm hoping/expecting that the new setback rules in the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw will have a positive effect on maintaining water quality.

The one other thing that I am quite proud of as a TOA constituent is the condition of our roads. They are for sure the best in the district. Again, that is the result of great Councils and staff since our incorporation in 1980. Unlike most other municipalities, we started to create reserves day one. Hence in ~ 2008, when the feds and province came out with infrastructure funding, we had plenty of \$ set aside to make our 1/3 contribution and get the Federal and Provincial funding to rebuild our roads.

**I couldn't be more pleased than to pass the Ward 5 Councillor baton to Darlene Cade. We all know how Darlene feels about our precious piece of Heaven and I am confident she will do a better job than I going forward :)**

## What's Going to Happen With My E-mail List

Darlene and I have discussed this and the plan will be that Darlene will get my full list (with your approval) so that she can communicate regarding Council/Municipal matters. I will still handle the "buy and sell" and "lost and found". The longer term plan is to hand over my portion to the Associations. I will be sending an E-mail out to everyone on my E-mail list to explain how it will work and obviously get their permission to pass their E-mail address on.

## Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review

Our review and changes to the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw continue to be a work in progress. The consultant who is working on it has provided proposed changes to Council several times and we are currently waiting on a version that we can present to the ratepayers. The latest information that I have is that the recommendation to Council and from Council will not be presented to the ratepayers (me included ) till next Spring.

## Site Alteration Bylaw

As you know, the consulting firm that has been contracted to author a site alteration bylaw put on a Zoom session last May where all ratepayers could participate and express their views/opinions. The consultants took that input and created a draft bylaw that they presented to Council in the summer. Well, it turns out that Council, most, not all, were expecting a bylaw that would focus on shoreline preservation and as a result the

consultants are adjusting. It was hoped that Council would have an opportunity to review the new draft in September but that didn't happen. It is planned that Council will have a look in October. Here's hoping as it will be my last Council session.

## **High Speed Internet in the TOA**

Last Spring the Feds and the Province set up a funding initiative with the goal of having everyone in the province having availability of high speed internet by 2025. To do this, they broke up the underserved areas of the province into chunks and allowed the Internet Service providers to bid on them. Bell won the bid for the TOA. However, this initiative, at this time, only intends to service road access properties and they will do that with fiber to the house/cottage where possible. Bell hasn't committed but we're hoping they'll achieve all of us by wireless to the home if fiber direct is not possible.

Personally, because they were able to provide us with a land line back in the 70's, I hope they will take the same initiative and replace that copper wire with fiber. The technology is there and there's no shortage of funding albeit all borrowed by the Feds and the Province.

## **Are you on my E-mail List?**

If you currently are not on my E-mail list and would like to be, just send me an E-mail at [ianm@vianet.ca](mailto:ianm@vianet.ca) and ask me to add you.

Cheers  
Ian

Address – 206 Crane Lake Water  
The Archipelago, ON P2A 0B7  
Phone - 705-378-2089 – summer  
705-484-5235 – winter  
905-301-4583 - cell

# Service Day

Michelle Bigelow

This year across Canada, September 11th was marked with acts of kindness and volunteerism. Gaining momentum and 'redefining the day' important legislation was passed this year and September 11th, recognized federally as a National Day of Service, also took to the provincial level, with Bill 51 being passed and now in Ontario a provincially recognized Day of Service.

The legislation honours those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001. It pays respect to Ontarian families and friends who lost loved ones and demonstrates support for the members of our Canadian Armed Forces, it is also a day to show gratitude to our women and men of service (in uniform or not) and it is a day to recognize service both in our communities and for our country. Speaking on Service Day, Maureen Basnicki, Founding Director, Canadian National Day of Service Foundation comments "Let us all rekindle the kindness, compassion and service which followed and reframe the day to a celebration of our Canadian values. It is a fitting living memorial and legacy for the Canadians taken on that day."

With a mission to celebrate and promote the strength, kindness, and generosity Canadians have demonstrated in the face of hardship and to give thanks to our men and women of service, anyone can take action on Service Day. Learn more at [www.serviceday.ca](http://www.serviceday.ca).

# 2022 Landmark Lollapalooza Poker Run

Oliver Woodburn

It sure is great to look back on the August long-weekend and recall the fun that was had during our association's poker run activity, affectionately named the LOLLAPALOOZA Poker Run.

If you didn't know, the definition of a lollapalooza is "an event that is particularly impressive". Going into it, we honestly weren't sure that our event would live up to its name but based on the feedback we received on July 30th and afterwards, along with seeing all the smiling faces, I like to think we definitely hosted an impressive event!

We were thrilled that 27 boats came out to participate. With an average of at least 5 people per boat, well over 125 people enjoyed an afternoon on the water. If you were sitting on your dock that afternoon, you probably witnessed a lot of happy boat traffic as folks made their way around the lake using the CLA's updated map to discover the various named landmarks.

People participated by hopping into a boat with their cottage families and guests and then finding the CLA Fire Boat anchored in Homestead Bay. Once registered they were given an envelope with a random poker card inside and sent off to collect 4 more cards from volunteers stationed at 4 other 'landmarks' around Crane Lake. At each landmark participants had an activity to complete such as a quiz or a card game. At one stop they had to assemble one of the CLA's portable fire pumps, get it started and use the water hose to knock a plastic goose off a ladder. With fire safety education as one of the CLA's missions, this fun activity taught a lot of cottagers how to use this very important equipment. Finally for some refreshment on a hot day people were offered a jumbo Mr. Freeze at Finger Point.

Although the main goal of the Lollapalooza was to create a fun and friendly lake community activity, there was an element of competition too! Once all the poker hands were reviewed, we awarded the teams with

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the top five poker hands a new fire extinguisher for their cottage. In addition, the first-place team named "Old Yeller" was also given a commemorative winner's plaque hand-crafted for the event by cottager Bob Ferguson.

We're already looking forward to LOLLAPALOOZA 2023!

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



## Water Quality

Steve Ridout

The Crane Lake Association participates in a water quality monitoring program through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)'s Lake Partner Program in partnership with the Federation of Ontario Cottages' Association (FOCA).

Water samples are sent in May and November of each year for analysis at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre. This year, due to a delay in the arrival of the kits, the Crane Lake samples will be limited to November.

To determine the depth to take the water sample from, a Secchi Disk is used (see attached photo). Basically the disk is lowered on a rope until it disappears. This depth is recorded and then the sample vials are lowered to the same depth.

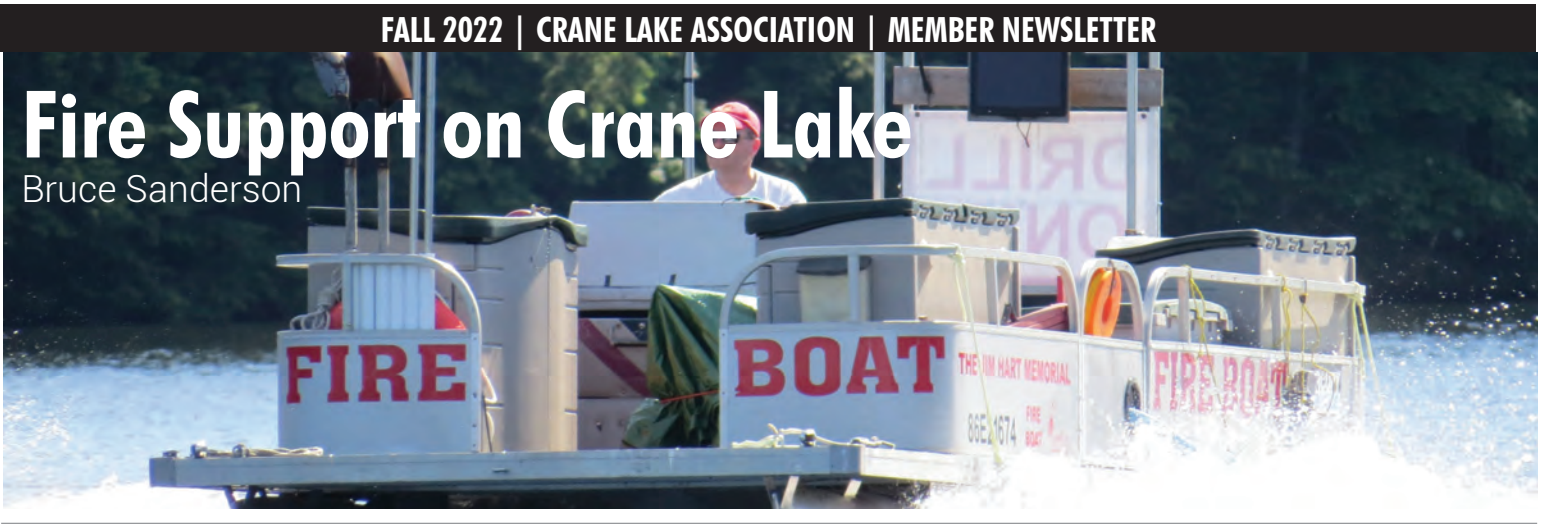
The Secchi disk is named after Father Pietro Secchi (1818 - 1878), a scientific advisor to the Pope. The Secchi disk was first used in 1865 in the Mediterranean Sea.

If you would like to visit an interactive map to review past results (up to 2019), visit the following link to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/map-lake-partner>.



# Fire Support on Crane Lake

Bruce Sanderson



As a point of pride, I have difficulty admitting that what you may see as a well-oiled machine might actually have a flaw. More on that later.

On Tuesday, August 16th around 2 pm, there was a fire at a property on Crane Lake. You may have seen the summary of events of that day prepared by Chris Reid and sent out through Ian Mead's distribution. The incident seems to have occurred because of roots running below ground under a fire pit igniting during a campfire, smoldering for 3 days, and then coming up several feet away and igniting loose debris (leaves, pine needles, etc.). A neighbour spotted the fire / smoke, alerted other neighbours, and a garden hose & bucket brigade started putting water on the fire. Multiple people called 911, Someone retrieved one of the portable fire pumps. As a result of the 911 call, several cottagers and members of the Fire Safety Committee were notified (through our text messaging service). More people arrived, plus another portable fire pump and the Crane Lake Fire Boat. By then the fire was under control and almost extinguished. It was safely put down with no injuries or damage to structures.

Even though this fire was very scary, with flames 20'-30' high at its peak, and got everyone's adrenaline flowing, it could have been much worse. If it were a Fall weekday with fewer people on the lake, if it hadn't been spotted as soon as it was, if the wind had been stronger causing it to spread quickly, or if it had reached the house only 15' away or turned into a forest fire...

Which brings me to the flaw. When 911 was called on the day of the fire incident, once the callers were routed to the Parry Sound Emergency Dispatch Centre, they were told that our area was not in a jurisdiction with a professional Fire Service. Although that is true, the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) has signed a contract on our behalf with Seguin Township Fire Service to respond to a fire on Crane Lake. As soon as we heard what the 911 caller had been told, the Clerk for the TOA and I both contacted Seguin Fire Services directly and they sent out a Fire Squad. They were recalled shortly afterwards as the

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fire had been extinguished.

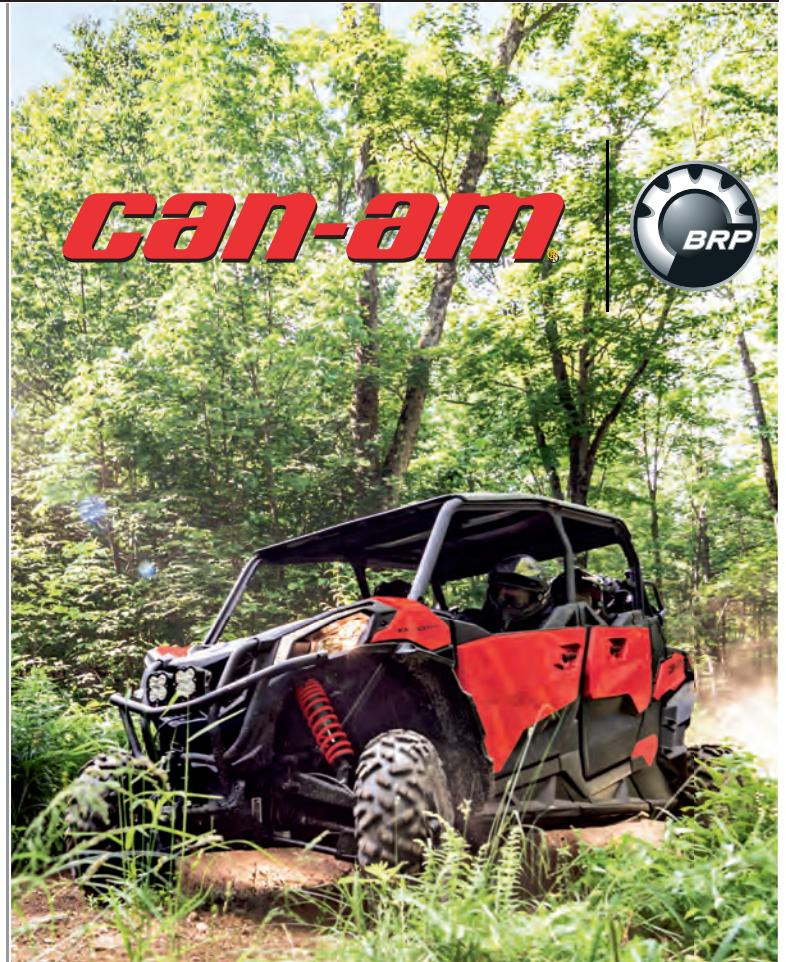
As a result of this situation, I requested a meeting with Seguin Fire Services. Darlene Cade-Fraser (President of the Crane Lake Association) and I attended, as well as the Clerk from the TOA. The new Fire Chief of Seguin Township and his staff committed to investigate and in conjunction with them we have put steps in place to prevent a delay in response from reoccurring.

This fire has created renewed interest in a number of areas. More people have requested demonstrations & training with our portable pumps and fire boat, people are learning where the portable fire pumps are located, and more people want to be added to the Crane Lake Fire Notification list. The notification list is an automated text message that is sent out whenever a 911 call is placed for a fire on Crane Lake. We will be sending information out on how to add your cell phone number to this notification list, should you wish to do so.

From an education standpoint, please refer to the Crane Lake "Preserving Paradise" Guide. This was released in 2017 and was distributed to all members of the Crane Lake Association. There is extensive information about Fire Safety and Fire Response in the guide. We are currently working on an updated guide and plan to publish and distribute it in 2023.

Additional items of importance to note:

- Make sure every family member and all visitors and renters know the address of your property and have it displayed in a central location for easy access. One of the 911 callers for the August incident was asked what their address was. They turned and called out to someone, "where are we?". If someone calls 911 and can't identify the municipal property address, the emergency dispatcher can't send help.
- Root fires are dangerous. Our previous Fire Safety Committee Chairman, the late Jim Hart, told me about them shortly after I joined the Committee back in 2005. I had previously never heard of root fires and was shocked. They most frequently occur because of forest fires and can smolder



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underground in tree roots for months and then come up and start another fire.

- Ensure your fire pit is safe. Read the excellent article in this newsletter by Chris Reid on building a safe fire pit and proper campfire safety practices.
- Know the phone numbers of your neighbours so you can contact them in an emergency. They may not know about a nearby fire. Check on your neighbours that have mobility issues. In the event of a spreading fire, you may be able to assist them to vacate by road or by boat.
- Develop and practice a fire plan with your family. Younger children will be more confident in an emergency if they have practiced a safety plan and know what to do in the event it is needed.

In summary, take fire seriously. A major fire will not just cause damage to your property, but could spread to your neighbour's cottage and the forest, affecting generations of cottagers and lowering property values if the forest is burned. The goal will always be prevention. Please stay safe.

# Things That Don't Belong in the Water

Crane Lake Kayakers

On our kayak trips we have seen various items in the lake this summer.

- Old Styrofoam; Unattached Pontoon, discarded docks, construction debris; Soap, Shampoo and Hair products; Beer cans; Mattress; Garbage Bag.

Many thanks to Brad Billings for arranging the mattress removal and to Zook Construction for removing it.

We have had windy days this summer. Please anchor your stuff so it doesn't become a hazard and a pollutant. Please don't wash in the lake, use your own waste water system.

None of these things belong in the lake. Let's preserve our paradise.



# Treasurer & Membership Report

Steven Neugebauer

## Treasurer Report

As of September 29, 2022, our combined bank/savings balance was \$72,777. The fund activity is summarized below:

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$10,762	\$6,200
Expense	\$7,376	\$0
Net Gain (Loss)	\$3,386	\$6,200
Balance at 01-Jan-2022	\$14,128	\$49,225
Balance at 29-Sept-2022	\$17,514	\$55,425

Our financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 will be available at the 2023 Annual General Meeting in July, as well as an update to our financial position at that time.

## Membership Report

As of September 29, 2022, 141 memberships of the Crane Lake Association have paid their dues for 2022! Thank you to those members who support the Crane Lake Association.

**For those of you who have not yet sent in your 2022 dues, I hope you will join the membership in 2022. The association dues for 2022 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.

We hope that all Crane Lake property owners will join us for the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July. In the event that the AGM needs to be held virtually, please ensure your 2023 membership dues payment is received at least two business days prior to the AGM. If the AGM is held in person, you may pay your dues at the AGM with either cash, cheque or eTransfer.

For payments by Interac e-Transfer, please send to Steven Neugebauer – [CLA.Steve1@gmail.com](mailto:CLA.Steve1@gmail.com) . Payments by cheque can be made payable to the Crane Lake Association, and mailed to the Membership Secretary at:

Steven Neugebauer, 81 Wrendale Crescent, Keswick, ON, L4P 4C7, Canada  
Please do not send cash by mail.

# Burning Love

Chris Reid

There is no better way to relax and unwind with friends and family after a full day of cottage activity than hunkering down around a warming campfire. The fire pit is an essential component for most cottages and one that is often taken for granted. However, a poorly executed camp fire can have devastating results, so a quick review of some key safety points regarding that ring of stones beside the cottage is a good thing.

## **1. Location**

When deciding where to locate your campfire pit, consider the proximity to building structures and combustible materials (logs, brush, firewood, furniture).

Look up! Are there overhanging branches, power lines or anything within 50 feet of the flames?

Ensure that there is no tinder within 15 feet of the fire site at a minimum and clear away as much underbrush in the area as possible.

Look down! What type of material is beneath the fire? You should have a solid base of non-combustible, insulating material at least 8-12 inches deep.

Root fires are a very real threat. *A hot fire can burn down, into the ground and smolder for days without a sign. To make matters worse, this slow burn can travel along tree roots or veins of composted soil, surfacing well away from the pit, igniting the forest or underbrush.*

## **2. Construction**

The choices here are many. The new steel fire pits are a good option as they are self contained and portable. The basic models are simple bowls held above ground on legs with a spark arresting screen and are available at most hardware stores.

The upgrade models consist of a double walled stainless steel cylinder with special base and venting that create a very hot, near smokeless burn while offering a high measure of containment, warmth and safety (the SOLO stove is a popular example).

A DIY permanent fire pit is generally constructed using concrete and patio stones; there are plenty of designs and plans to be found online.

The most common and popular however is the rock fire ring. This is, at first glance, the simplest route to a blazing fire but also the most dangerous. It is very important that you dig down a good foot and if you hit roots, either relocate your fire or construct a fireproof base. Regardless, always employ a thick bed of aggregate covered in stone or concrete unless you are on solid bedrock. The base is far more important than the ring of rocks you use to surround the pit.

## **3. General Tips**

- Choose to burn hardwood (maple, beech, oak etc.) whenever possible to reduce embers. Hemlock, Pine and other softwoods have a lot of snap, crackle and pop, sending hot embers into the air.
- Wind: Always consider how windy it is and from what direction before starting your fire. Not only will the breeze cause the fire to burn hotter, it will also send smoke and embers away from the safe location you have chosen.
- Extinguish your fire properly. Never leave the fire unattended. Smokey recommends a bucket of water, stir the coals, and then a second bucket of water.
- Be mindful of kids and pets. Campfires are the number one source of cottage injury in kids, so keep them well back from the fire. A hot ember in the eye can put a real damper on your day (see point number one).
- Keep the fire small. Bonfires present a much greater risk than a modest blaze and are not necessary to

enjoy your evening around the fire.

- Be prepared. Keep a garden hose or bucket and shovel handy and have a plan ready in the case of an uncontrolled fire igniting as a result of your campfire.

In conclusion, never take your campfire for granted. Keep an eye on the area surrounding your fire pit, ensure your base is super safe, check the current Fire Rating posted on the Township of the Archipelago website, and don't burn when it's dry or windy. Common sense should never be trumped by the want of a S'mores.



The 2022 Sailing Races were held in the central part of the lake and took place on Sunday, July 31st. The day was nice and sunny, and the wind conditions were steady and good for sailing.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our race-day helpers Bruce and Chuck!

We had four participants in two vessels, in the under 18 category, so we held the Junior Sailing race this year. Both vessels were Picos. Given the good wind conditions the Junior Sailing race went the standard 4 legs – once around all three marks, and then finishing at the plus 1 mark. In the end Paul and Justin Neugebauer prevailed. Congratulations Paul and Justin! We hope to see you, Dylan, Max and more sailors next year!

We had four participants competing for the Championship race. Given the good wind conditions the Championship race was set for 7 legs – twice around all three marks, and then finishing at the plus 1 mark. Despite some last minute re-rigging challenge just before the race started, Greg Marshall's Lazer finished with a strong 1st place finish. Congratulations Greg! Patrick and Bob were a close second and third; and Klaus rounded out the quartet of Championship racers!

The final stats on the Junior Sailing race:

Place	Skipper	Vessel	Elapsed
1	Paul and Justin Neugebauer	Pico	0:57:21
2	Dylan and Max Follett	Pico	1:06:31

The final stats on the Championship Sailing race:

Place	Skipper	Vessel	Elapsed
1	Greg Marshall	Lazer	1:15:18
2	Patrick Vibien	Zuma	1:30:41
3	Bob Neugebauer	JY 15	1:31:44
4	Klaus Faisst	Windsurfer	1:48:00



Clockwise from left: Patrick Vibien, Greg Marshall, Klauss Faisst, Bob Neugebauer, Dylan Follett, Steve Neugebauer, Max Follett, Justin Neugebauer, Paul Neugebauer



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# Tributes to Darlene

Submissions from the CLA Board

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Darlene Cade will be retiring from the Board as she begins her new role as Ward 5 Councillor for the Township of the Archipelago. The following are comments from CLA Directors who have worked alongside Darlene who has been President of the Crane Lake Association for more than ten years.

*What I will miss most about Darlene on the CLA Board is her infectious enthusiasm, and her constant concern about bringing the highest value to members, and doing the right thing for Crane Lake as a whole. Darlene was at the helm for many accomplishments beneficial to Crane Lake and its community, but most notably, she was the driving force behind the Crane Lake Survey, which identified the items of greatest concern to Crane Lakers, and the "Preserving Paradise Guide," packed with valuable information to all stakeholders about using and enjoying Crane Lake.*

Bruce Sanderson

*The value and service Darlene has contributed to the CLA are immense and describing them all is well beyond the scope of a short tribute. What I'll miss about working with Darlene is her direct, fair and honest diplomacy, not to mention her incredible energy and optimistic attitude.*

Oliver Woodburn

*The Crane Lake community is fortunate to have such a dedicated, enthusiastic association president. It was Darlene's enthusiasm and genuine passion for our community that inspired me to join the Board. Thank you Darlene for all your hard work and good luck with your next challenge.*

Steve Ridout

*Darlene is such a fantastic leader, always willing to ensure all voices are heard, ideas have an action plan and most importantly keeping our board meetings full of laughs and supportive conversations for everyone. She has been the face of this board and such a strong member of the Crane Lake community to ensure that our mission and vision could happen with massive projects and even small ways for the community to come together during and after the pandemic. I, personally, feel so lucky to have had the chance to see Darlene's leadership and enjoyed the many opportunities I had to work with her and feel inspired to do more for our community based on her "let's try it" mentality for all ideas. Thank you, Darlene!*

Alysha Ferguson

*Darlene chaired our AGMs and Board meetings in a welcoming, collaborative, confident manner. Her ability to listen, and analyse and synthesise information led to the completion of key projects as well as the resolution of many issues. Our association will miss her consensus building skills, her passion for Crane Lake and her laughter. These qualities will be assets in her new role as councillor for Ward 5. We wish her well.*

Monica Gemeinhardt

# A History of 146 Crane Lake Water

Brenda Dinsmore



When we were asked to provide a history of our property (146 Crane Lake Water), we were initially reluctant. As caretakers of this iconic property for only 8 seasons.... we are certainly not qualified.

However, we'll share what little we've been able to find out.

A Mr. Will Earhart, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the first owner, purchasing the land from the Crown in 1921.

Previous owners felt the original construction date of the cabin was 1924, based on a date carved into the mortar on one of the stone piers. However, our recent construction removed the skirting around the building, allowing us to get a better look at this carving. We think it looks more like 1928.

There are 2 other properties on the lake (Marshall Island and Kansik Point) that I suspect were produced by the same builder, given their similarities. Rumour has it that a stonemason from either Ireland or Scotland is responsible for the stone fireplace. His fireplaces on Crane and Blackstone can be identified by a signature focus stone above the firebox. My Dad has christened ours, "the pile o' rocks".



All the building materials would have been sourced/ milled on-site, or brought in through the river from Blackstone. The structure is believed to be the seventh constructed on Crane Lake, and the 6th oldest still standing (as per notes collected by Jim Hart in 2005).

In 1946 the property was sold to the Wisharts (may be spelled Wishert), then subsequently passed to the Perrys in 1969, and the Zoecklers in 1974. *Interesting side note about Reverend Wishart: In 1945 at White Pine Lodge, he conducted a sunset service of prayer and thanksgiving to mark the end of WWII.*

*Boats of all sizes from Crane and Blackstone floated in the lake as Rev. Wishart conducted this service.*

Originally, the screened-in porch wrapped around 2 sides of the building. One side was closed in at some



point by a previous owner to add a bedroom. We assume the screen porch was used for sleeping. At some point a kitchen and bathroom were added.

The Zoecklers added hydro, telephone, and septic in the late 80s/early 90s. Our neighbour, Lucy, told us a story about having to take them a hair dryer to test the hydro installation, since there was nothing onsite to be plugged in! They also extended the kitchen and upgraded the bathroom in the mid-90's. The original ice storage shed was removed in 2001 and replaced with the current shed. The remnants of an old outdoor shower can also be found on the property.



We purchased in 2015, having only seen the property in the dead of winter by snowmobile (wouldn't recommend, we'll get to that....). The property was quickly nicknamed "3 of a kind cabin" (since there was at least 3 of EVERYTHING), and "the shack on the lake" (spoken by Jamie to the insurance company.... "you want HOW much money to insure a shack on a lake?!") Our neighbours also informed us that some people fondly refer to it as "on golden pond". We quickly realized that the building was not as structurally sound as it seemed in January when frozen solid. You could see through cracks in the walls to outside. If someone walked across the floor in the loft storage area, it would bounce in a rather disturbing manner. Not good, since we were hoping to turn this into additional sleeping space (there is only one bedroom!).

So our first year was spent sistering beams and shoring up supports. A barge on the lake in the fall gave us the opportunity to add spray foam insulation, as we were hoping to utilize the property in winter. This had the added advantage of helping to hold the building together and fill in the wall spaces. :) Take that, mosquitoes, mice, and whatever hid dozens of acorns in our dining table!

Of course, once spray-foamed, we had a very large job ahead of us covering all that exposed insulation with paneling. This has taken us several years, and is still not complete (one room to go!). We also removed and replaced an old outhouse circa 1974.



After a new roof was put on in 2019, we became concerned with the state of the external siding. Since the insulation was sprayed directly onto the back of this, we were looking at putting new siding over top. New windows were also added at this time.

Throughout, we've tried to do our best to update the building, while keeping the original character. Several sleepless nights were spent agonizing over the colour change in particular! While I'm sure you'd agree that there is always SOMETHING to be done at the cottage, most of the large jobs are behind us, and we've had more opportunities to enjoy the lake lately. We feel so fortunate to have found this little piece of paradise on Crane Lake. We love it!

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