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President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

I think that if we close our eyes tight, we can feel the warmth of the summer sun, the taste of a cool drink, and the sound of Crane Lake lapping gently up against the shore. What a wonderful thought! For those of us that have spent the last several months in Ontario, we are most definitely ready for some 'fun in the sun!' It has been a very cold winter and, lately, a long-drawn out attempt by Mother Nature to turn our winter into Spring! On the other hand, the fortunate people that visit their cottage throughout the winter season enjoyed the remarkable beauty of Crane Lake covered in a blanket of white. While it is always a bit sad to see the snow melt away and the forests turn from white to brown before Spring boasts her resurgence, watching the ice break into crystal-like prisms is nothing less than magical.

And a new season begins....

The Crane Lake Association is a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations). FOCA is a not-for-profit organization that, for over 50 years, has been an exceptionally strong voice for waterfront communities across Ontario. FOCA delivers programs and services to Cottage, Lake & Road Associations; they maintain effective government relations with an emphasis on environmental/climate change and pocket-book issues; they connect citizen scientists and

community leaders with academic and science partners for the well being of our waterfront environments (Lake Partner Program – water testing etc.); and they maintain a website (www.foca.on.ca) that is overflowing with excellent resources for cottage owners and waterfront communities alike. The FOCA AGM (sold out) meeting was held at the Boulevard Club in Toronto in early March, and a few CLA board members attended. The speakers and the panel discussions were excellent. Topics included 'Creative Solutions to Boating Issues' led by the OPP Provincial Marine Coordinator, and Cottage Succession Planning – with the same Peter Lillico that was our AGM guest speaker a few years ago. The CLA board has certainly benefited from the work of FOCA, especially as it relates to our Lake Plan, on which FOCA offered great guidance. The CLA completed the Crane Lake 'Lake Plan' following a comprehensive survey and group workshops with Crane Lake property owners. The results concluded that our neighbourhood agrees fully that water quality is our No. #1 concern. We presented our Plan to the Township of the Archipelago in the summer of 2015. With our Lake Plan in their hands, the TOA has the foundation on which to stand on our behalf should any discussions arise at Council that could impact Crane Lake. The CLA board has a mandate to revisit the Lake Plan every 5 years. So, around this time next year you will begin to see our

communication regarding any updates required to the existing Plan.

When we meet other Lake Association members at the FOCA events, it becomes extremely apparent that lake water issues run rampant throughout Ontario. Invasive Species and run-off pollutants are destroying lakes of all sizes. We must protect Crane Lake from any reduction in quality by remaining cognizant at all times of her vulnerability. Each of us, as waterfront property owners, have a responsibility to understand what we must do to maintain, and even improve, the health of our Lake. If we have any desire to ensure our next generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the simple pleasures of swimming in clean water, we must be proactive! The CLA will continue to provide you with educational materials to help in our mission of retaining good water quality to the benefit of all our stakeholders, current & future!

You will recall that in the summer of 2017, the CLA board produced our 'Guide to Crane Lake' which we are distributing to all CLA members as a benefit of membership, with copies for sale available to non-members. This year we will be 'refreshing' the Guide to keep it up-to-date. Any changes will be posted to our website for your easy reference. This Guide should be kept easily available to all family members and guests visiting your cottage as a resource to better understanding our Crane Lake community!

This year, the CLA board is very excited to continue our work on a multi-media production for our members on the history of Crane Lake! This project will include interviews with multiple families of the Lake, current and past, and spectacular professional film footage of Crane Lake taken from a sophisticated drone. Our target date for completion and release to our members is the AGM of 2020. We are relying on you as property owners on Crane Lake to contact us with anything relative to the history of our Lake to allow us the best opportunity to bring you this wonderful story-telling adventure! Any stories, photos, important historical moments or events that you share with the CLA will only make this product that much better! Contact us – contactus@cranelakeassociation.ca

Crane Lake Marina is continuing its work with the installation of the gas pump and storage tank and anticipate this new facility will be operational in the summer of 2019!

Finally, please **SAVE THE DATE for our CLA AGM meeting on Saturday July 13th, 2019**. More details will follow in our Summer Newsletter!

Have Fun opening the cottage this Spring!
We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

CLA Board of Directors

2018-2019

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Councillor's Corner

Ian Mead

In my last "Councillor's Corner" I mentioned that at the time I was writing it, the hydro was out on Crane. Well, here it is near the end of Feb 2019 and again the hydro is out – big storm with lots of wind. As I mentioned before, I was acclaimed for another term at Council. This will be my 4th term and when I'm finished this term I will have been there for 16 years. My first job out of school was with Ford Motor Company and I was there for 16 years. Time sure flies when you are having fun :). Let me bring you up-to-date on a few things going on.

Clear Lake Subdivision

Back in 1998 or 1999 there was a subdivision proposal for some lots to be developed on Salmon Lake and also the north half of Clear Lake. This was Foley Township at the time and now is Seguin. Because the Archipelago owns the south half of Clear, there was obviously considerable concern and so the Archipelago appealed the proposal to the OMB. The final decision by the OMB was to decrease the number of lots on Clear from 28, I believe, to 20. Since then nothing has really happened. The property has been for sale all these years. In the last year or so the property was sold to a developer and there is once more significant concern from people – mainly on Salmon Lake. This concern was brought to the TOA's attention and as a result Council had a fairly lengthy discussion on it. Council and staff are of the opinion that we can't interfere strongly with Seguin's approach on this because we all agreed to an OMB decision back in the late 90's. However, I expressed my concern regarding the almost unnavigable stream between Clear and Crane so as a result, the TOA sent a letter of concern to the MNR and Seguin. If/when this subdivision becomes a reality, the last thing we want is for that stream to be altered allowing easy access to Crane. Meanwhile, over the summer, the developer started putting in the roads. As a result, the MNR was called in and the developer was charged under the endangered species act. There was a hearing on this charge in the late fall of 2018 and as of this date a

report/decision has not been made. Also, the developer has numerous conditions to meet before Seguin will proceed with lot severances etc. The TOA has not been privy to exactly what those conditions are. So, we are basically in a wait and see mode. Planning staff are in constant communication with Seguin staff on this issue.

Stay tuned!!

Cannabis in the TOA

As you know, the new Ontario government decided not to retail Cannabis through the LCBO. Instead, they decided to allow "corner stores" to retail it if they passed the test. Then they passed the buck to the Municipalities to "opt in" or "opt out" and if the municipality didn't "opt out" by January 22nd, 2019 they would automatically be "opted in". As you probably know, large municipalities such as Mississauga, Markham and Richmond Hill opted out to wait and see how this whole mess would work out. Any municipality that opted out could opt in any time in the future.

So, in a very democratic move, the TOA did a survey through their Associations and Councillors to determine what the majority wanted. Much to my surprise and disappointment, a slight majority (52%) wanted us to allow the sale of Cannabis in the TOA.

At the January Council meeting, Council voted on it and I regret to say that it was voted to "opt in" and allow cannabis sales in the TOA. In a recorded vote, there were only 3 of us (all grandfathers) that voted against selling cannabis in the TOA. I mention "grandfathers" because all three of us are very concerned about the health and welfare of our grandchildren and Canadian youth in general. Now the Feds, in their infinite wisdom, are going to allow cannabis infused edibles – THC infused gummy bears coming to a schoolyard near you.

As you can see, I'm no fan of this moronic move and I hope I'm wrong, but I am sure that Canadians will rue the day when our Government legalized Cannabis for recreational use.

Ribbon of Life

In this segment my intent was to talk to you about something that I am quite passionate about and that is “the Ribbon of Life” and how it plays an essential role in the protection of our water quality. When I sat down to put this together, I saw that it was not going to be a short piece so because of its high importance, I am going to save it for perhaps several future communications.

In this next term of Council, we will be revisiting our Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws and in doing so, I plan to try to make some common sense changes that will protect our “Ribbon of Life” on our waterfront and in doing so, ensure we practice “Best Practices” when it comes to water quality going forward – please stay tuned.

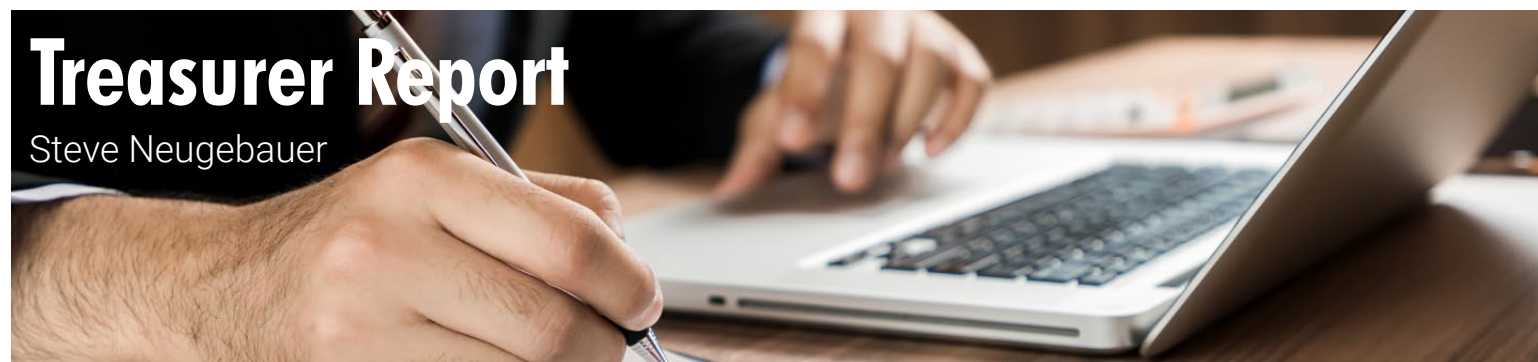
Are you on my E-mail List?

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 and ask me to add you.

Cheers
Ian

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Treasurer Report

Steve Neugebauer

As of December 31, 2018, our combined bank/savings balance was \$46,279.
For 2018 both income and expense were better our budget and forecasts.

The 2018 fund activity is summarized below:

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$ 8,087	\$ 7,035
Expense	7,122	349
Net Gain (Loss)	965	6,686
Balance at 01-Jan-2018	\$ 7,198	\$ 29,418
Balance at 31-Dec-2018	8,163	36,104

*** Note these numbers are based on certain assumptions for some 2018 expenses that are not yet submitted, and these figures have not yet been reviewed. Our formal financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 will be available at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in July, as well as a current update to our financial position.

Tribute to Erwin Lutz (1923-2018)

Prepared by Bruce Sanderson, with contributions from:
Chuck Erion & Trish Siemens; Barry & Christine Ridout; Don Thomson & Wendy Thomson (nee Spence); Brian Harris

Erwin and Erna Lutz have been our neighbours on Crane Lake since my wife and I bought our property in Bathtub Bay in 2004. Sadly, Erwin passed away on December 16, 2018 at the age of 95. Of the many mourners at his funeral, 15 neighbours from Bathtub Bay were in attendance. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all of us in the bay and all the family, friends, neighbours and fellow cottagers he touched with his generosity and willingness to help.

Erwin and Erna emigrated from their native Austria to Canada with their 2-year-old son in 1955. In 1957 they welcomed their second son. They bought their lot on Crane Lake at the government auction in 1969. They cleared some space at the shore for their camping gear and every possible weekend for the next several summers, headed up from the city to the marina and crossed the lake by boat to put in endless gruelling hours of labour to build their summer paradise.

Erwin cleared the land and designed and built their cottage himself, with only assistance from Ken Van Koughnett to set the rafters. In those days, all the materials came across the lake by barge. When it came time to install the septic system, Erwin again cleared the land and hauled countless wheelbarrow loads of sand and gravel uphill from the barge to the site. And several years before the official road was built, he cut his own corduroy trail / driveway into his property. Said one bay neighbour, "Erwin was certainly one of the pioneers on Bathtub Bay."

Erwin designed electrical systems for all types and sizes of buildings and projects including Commerce Court in downtown Toronto, the TTC Subway and the CN Tower, work that he loved. His happiest times though, were spent with his family and friends at Crane Lake enjoying the cottage they named "Lutzaberg".

Erwin and Erna made my wife and me feel welcome from the moment we first arrived at our cottage and our thoughts of Crane Lake will be inextricably tied to them. We have lots of pleasant memories of them and listening to their stories of many rewarding times at the lake. As mentioned by long time friends of theirs in the bay, Erwin and Erna were like family, and always asked how your kids or grandkids were doing. Brian Harris, who bought his lot on the same October day in 1969 as the Lutz's said, "as neighbours they were the best of the best". Brian remembers that Erwin was always available to solve electrical problems "with methodical ease."

To say Erwin came from fine European stock would be an understatement. He chopped all his wood by hand, after cutting down the trees himself of course. My wife and I would frequently hear him wielding the axe, or the splitting wedge and sledge hammer, into his late 80's. One time that I rented a gas wood splitter to split a pile of wood, Erwin heard the engine and came over to check it out.



After watching me for a bit, I told him I'd let him know the next time I was going to rent it, so he could use it to split his wood as well. About 87 years old at the time, Erwin replied that he did just fine on his own with his splitting wedge.

As a resourceful handyman and tinkerer, Erwin's workshop held an assortment of spare parts from years of the necessary repairs common to cottages. Whenever I had an urgent issue at my own cottage, before I would make the half hour drive to the hardware store in Mactier I would call Erwin or drop over to see if he had something in stock that would work permanently, or even temporarily until I could do a proper repair. He also found solutions to my emergencies a few times when the hardware store was closed. This was not unique to me though. Many neighbours reported similar stories of Erwin dispensing advice, parts or his personal time to assist with whatever breakdown or project they were working on, not wanting to accept any compensation.

A long time Bathtub Bay neighbour, Chuck Erion, recalls with affection asking Erwin if he could do the wiring for an addition to his cottage in 2001. Chuck's late in-laws, Hal and Doreen Siemens, had been friends with the Lutz's from the early '70s. Erwin eagerly agreed to help, and got along well with the other workers, Chuck and wife Trish's sons, who were at least fifty years younger. When Erwin refused to be paid, Chuck tried to give him a used tin boat, which Erwin insisted on paying for. What a guy! (They did give him an exceptional bottle of Cognac.)

Barry & Christine Ridout bought in Bathtub Bay in 1976, but cottaged with friends there since 1972. "Our kids grew up on the lake, now the grandkids." Barry said Erwin taught him how to fell trees and how to find and repair electrical problems. "He was never too busy to come and have a look at it, which always meant fixing it." Barry said Erwin also taught him how to maintain and repair his chainsaw. "He was my teacher, mentor and friend and I will miss him terribly, especially when something breaks!"

As with many cottagers, summer weekends at the lake for Erwin and Erna were a given. Being at the lake reminded them of the Austrian countryside. Before Erwin retired, every Friday Erna would pack the car and the kids (until the kids were older and had other interests) and head from their home in Scarborough to Brampton where Erwin was working, to pick him up. Then it was north to the lake. Very early Monday morning they would do it in reverse, with Erna dropping Erwin off at work and then heading home to unpack the car and get the kids off to school. After retiring, unless they had other obligations or medical appointments back in Toronto, they would spend most of the summer at Crane Lake.

Another Bathtub Bay neighbour, Keith and Betty Spence, who also purchased their land from the '69 auction, quickly became close friends with Erwin and Erna. Keith being a plumber and Erwin an electrician, they shared their expertise back and forth. Over the years the extended families became close with all the grandchildren at bonfires, fishing, or at the Crane Lake Regatta. Keith's son-in-law Don remembers bringing Erwin (now well into his 80's) up to the lake one winter and Erwin willing to travel along South Crane Lake Road on the back of a snowmobile to check on the cottage. This was Erwin's first ride on a snowmobile!

Two summers ago, Erwin was only able to get to the cottage once. His declining health made him weak and unmotivated. This past summer, he didn't make it up at all. His legacy has been passed down for the enjoyment of his children's families, the grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Rest easy Erwin. We know you're tinkering now at your cottage in Heaven, waiting for Erna and the rest of us. Pace yourself though, as there is unending wood to split up there.

You will be in our thoughts always.

Are Fireworks Bad for the Environment?

Written by: Russell McLendon, for "Mother Nature Network" www.mnn.com,

Published July 3, 2018



Fireworks can shower toxins, and scientists are only beginning to figure out what that means for human health.

The rockets' red glare during a fireworks show can fill onlookers with patriotism and awe. Unfortunately, it can also fill them with particulates and aluminum.

Fireworks get their flamboyance from a variety of chemicals, many of which are toxic to humans. From the gunpowder that fuels their flight to the metallic compounds that color their explosions, fireworks often contain carcinogenic or hormone-disrupting substances that can seep into soil and water, not to mention the lung-clogging smoke they release and plastic debris they scatter.

But fireworks shows are woven into the fabric of the U.S. — they were popular even before the country won its independence — and it's not like they happen every day. Is an occasional peppering of perchlorates really a big deal compared with all the industrial pollution U.S. waterways have been dealt over the years?

Maybe not, but it's still not entirely clear how fireworks affect environmental or human health. While they haven't been linked to any widespread disease, it's not always easy to pin down why someone developed hypothyroidism, anemia or cancer.

What we do know is that, although they're fleeting and infrequent, fireworks shows spray out a toxic concoction that rains down quietly into lakes, rivers and bays throughout the country. Many of the chemicals in fireworks are also persistent in the environment, meaning they stubbornly sit there instead of breaking down. That's how mercury from coal emissions winds up in fish, and it's how DDT thinned bald eagles' eggshells in the '70s. There's scant evidence that fireworks are having similar effects, but the possibility has been enough to raise concern in many communities.

Here's a look at what's in fireworks, how they might affect people, and what kinds of alternatives exist:

Perchlorates and Particulates

For fireworks and other pyrotechnics to blow up, they need to blow up something — usually a blend of charcoal and sulfur fuel. They also need an ingredient that can inject oxygen to speed up the explosion, historically relying on potassium nitrate. These three chemicals are mixed together into a sooty substance known as gunpowder.

When a spark hits gunpowder, the potassium nitrate feeds oxygen to the fire, helping it quickly burn the charcoal-sulfur fuel. This produces volumes of hot, rapidly expanding solids and gases that can be used to fire a bullet, explode an artillery shell or launch a Roman candle.

The original blends of black powder can be a bit too unstable and messy for some uses, though, so the

potassium nitrate is often replaced by perchlorates, a family of chemicals all featuring a central chlorine atom bonded by four oxygen atoms. Two types in particular — potassium perchlorate and ammonium perchlorate — have become the go-to oxidizers of the pyrotechnics industry.

Perchlorates may have introduced a new problem, though: In high enough doses, they limit the human thyroid gland's ability to take iodine from the bloodstream, potentially resulting in hypothyroidism. The thyroid needs iodine to make hormones that control a variety of body functions, and people running too low on these hormones can develop a wide range of disorders. Children, infants and especially fetuses suffer the worst from hypothyroidism, since thyroid hormones are crucial for normal growth. Perchlorates have also been shown to cause thyroid cancer in rats and mice, but scientists believe humans are less vulnerable to this effect.

Low doses of perchlorates don't seem to hurt healthy adults — volunteers who took 35 milligrams for 14 days or 3 milligrams for six months showed no thyroid-related problems, and studies of workers exposed to similar amounts for years also failed to uncover any major side effects. Plus, perchlorate advocates often point out that it should theoretically all be incinerated in the sky before any can fall down to contaminate the ground.

But a 2007 study of an Oklahoma lake following fireworks displays overhead found that perchlorate levels spiked more than 1,000 times above the baseline level for 14 hours after a show. While the maximum concentration detected was 44.2 micrograms — less than 1 milligram — per liter, the study was still the most concrete evidence yet that fireworks release perchlorates into waterways.

Another study by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection found perchlorate levels up to 62 micrograms per liter at eight groundwater-monitoring wells on the Dartmouth campus, near where fireworks are regularly fired.

EPA spokesman Skip Anderson cautions that these weren't health-effects studies, and points out more data are needed to determine how great a risk perchlorates pose in surface water. Still, he says, their results "suggest that some perchlorate in fireworks is not combusted and therefore can wind up in the environment."

The smoke from fireworks' burned charcoal and sulfur fuel also contains particulate matter that can get lodged in people's lungs, an immediate danger for those with asthma or chemical sensitivities. Prolonged exposure to similar airborne particles from diesel exhaust has also been shown to cause lung cancer. Air-quality monitors reportedly spike for about three hours after a fireworks show.

One positive of both perchlorates and particulates is that they most likely don't pose a long-term threat. Particulates fade away after a few hours, and perchlorates dissipate days or weeks after being released. Unfortunately, the same can't be said about some other chemicals that help light up the sky.

Metallic compounds

In addition to gunpowder, fireworks are packed with heavy metals and other toxins that produce their sparkling shower of colors. Like perchlorates, the exact effect of fireworks' heavy-metal fallout is still mainly a mystery, but scientists do know that the metals themselves can wreak havoc in the human body.

- **Strontium (red):** This soft, silvery-yellow metal turns red when it burns, and it's extremely reactive with both air and water. Some strontium compounds dissolve in water, and others can move deep into soil and groundwater. While low levels of stable strontium have not been shown to affect human health, the metal can be dangerous at high doses. The main health threat posed by non-radioactive strontium is for children, since it can impair their bone growth.

- **Aluminum (white):** Since aluminum is the most abundant metal in Earth's crust — and one of humanity's most widely used — avoiding exposure is almost impossible. Virtually all food, water, air and soil contain some amount of aluminum — the average adult eats about 7 to 9 milligrams of the silvery-white metal every day in food. It's generally safe at these levels, but it can affect the brain and lungs at higher concentrations. People and animals exposed to large amounts of aluminum have performed poorly on mental and physical tests, and some studies suggest aluminum exposure may lead to Alzheimer's disease, although that connection has yet to be proven.
- **Copper (blue):** Fireworks' blue hues are produced by copper compounds. These aren't very toxic on their own, but the copper jump-starts the formation of dioxins when perchlorates in the fireworks burn. Dioxins are vicious chemicals that don't occur naturally; they're the unwelcome by-products of certain chemical reactions, one of which happens in blue fireworks. The most noted health effect of dioxin exposure is chloracne, a severe skin disease with acne-like lesions mostly on the face and upper body. Dioxin doesn't stop there, though — the World Health Organization has identified it as a human carcinogen, and it's also been shown to disrupt hormone production and glucose metabolism.
- **Barium (green):** Fish and other aquatic organisms can accumulate barium, which means it can move up the food chain. The silvery-white metal naturally bonds with other elements to form a variety of compounds that all have different effects — none are known to be carcinogenic, but they can cause gastrointestinal problems and muscular weakness when exposure exceeds EPA drinking water standards. Symptoms may include vomiting, diarrhea, breathing trouble, changes in blood pressure, numbness around the face, general muscle weakness and cramps. High levels of barium exposure can lead to changes in heart rhythm, paralysis or death.
- **Rubidium (purple):** This soft, silvery metal is one of the most abundant elements on Earth. It burns purple, melts to a liquid at 104 degrees Fahrenheit and is highly reactive with water, capable of igniting fires even far below the freezing point. It hasn't been reported to cause any major environmental damage, but it can cause skin irritation since it's so reactive with moisture, and it's moderately toxic when ingested, reportedly able to replace calcium in bones.
- **Cadmium (various):** Used to produce a wide range of fireworks colors, this mineral is also a known human carcinogen. Breathing high levels of cadmium can seriously damage the lungs, and consuming it can fluster the stomach, often resulting in vomiting and diarrhea. Long-term exposure can lead to kidney disease, lung damage and fragile bones. Plants, fish and other animals take up cadmium from the environment, meaning that any released into waterways from a fireworks show can be passed up the food chain.

Alternative Fireworks

The most eco-friendly alternative to fireworks is to forgo explosions altogether — go to a parade, go fishing, grill out, camp out or help out.

If you must see the sky festively illuminated, you might want to try a laser light show, which create dazzling displays of color without launching dangerous chemicals into the air. They may consume lots of energy, but so does the rampant production of single-use fireworks.

Here's an example of lasers in lieu of fireworks on the Fourth of July, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, in 2017: https://youtu.be/SVMDZgdEa_w.

In 2004, Disney began using compressed air to launch fireworks at Disneyland in California, reducing at least the issues of smoky particulates in the air and perchlorates in the water. Researchers have also been fine-tuning alternative propellants that use nitrogen-rich materials in place of perchlorates.

Native Plant Sale



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Ramsey's Legacy

Vanessa Woodburn

Thank you to the Crane Lake Association for asking me to share the story of my family on Crane Lake. I have enjoyed the fact-checking, family conversations and photo gathering process it has sparked.

Our cottage is located near the North End of the lake, on Goebbel's Bay. My Uncle David Ramsey, a young school Principal at the time in Mississauga, purchased the property in 1969. As the story goes, his heart was set on a piece of land with western exposure and a rocky point. When he saw the lot on Goebbels Bay, David knew he had found the right spot. David also bought a canoe and a tent, and family folk-lore has it that and he and my father Terry would travel up to Crane Lake on weekends; camping, cooking meals over the fire, deciding on the best spot to build, and clearing land for the driveway. Like much of the geography of Crane Lake, our terrain consists mostly of bush, trees, and steep, rugged Canadian Shield. The imagination and sheer determination it must have taken to build a cottage literally perched in the middle of this always amazes me.

Sadly, my Uncle David only had a few years to enjoy the cottage. He died of cancer in 1975 at the age of 36, only three years after finishing construction. David was not married and he left the cottage to my Grandmother, Helen Ramsey. My mother Peggy remembers David sharing his hopes with her that the cottage life he envisioned be enjoyed by her young family, as David had no children of his own. The picture of the two young children is of my brother Craig and I, taken in 1975, just months after David passed away. My Mom says that everyone agreed to enjoy the cottage "just for the summer" as David had wanted, and then they would think about selling.

That Crane Lake summer must have worked its very special magic on my parents and my grandmother because one summer has thankfully, become forty-six and counting. For our family, as for many of you, summer begins and ends at Crane Lake. I am so grateful that my childhood experiences; swimming, boating, campfires, fishing, water sports, cottage games and shenanigans have now become part of the fabric of life that I share with my husband Oliver and our three teenage children, Galen, Noah and Madeleine.

The cottage is a special place for my brother as well. Craig has lived in Japan with his wife Yuriko and their two daughters, Alyssa and Lana, for the last 17 years. He comes home every summer to be at the cottage. The 5 cousins are glued at the hip for these precious few weeks together on Crane Lake. I asked Craig to share a favourite memory for this article. One story that might be especially interesting for this audience is Craig's memory of a time during the 80's when he and our father would collect water samples from all over the lake on Sunday evenings. We would stop at the Ministry of Natural resources building in Toronto on our way home to drop them off. That work was important even back then. Some of you may remember my father, Terry Johnston. He was a passionate, dedicated fisherman and the acid rain crisis in the 80's was of great concern to him. He noticed it affecting the amount and quality of fish that he was catching in Crane Lake, and volunteering to measure water quality was one way he felt he could help. I am so grateful that preserving the clean, clear water on Crane Lake is still a priority for cottagers and the Crane Lake Association.

One of my favourite memories as a child is the freedom that my brother and I felt when we were allowed to take the tin boat out by ourselves. Our first stop was usually Crane Lake House where Mr. Ken van Koughnett ran a small, well-stocked store. He allowed cottagers to keep a tab running during the summer and had a shelf of booklets behind the check-out with each family's name printed neatly. Craig and I liked nothing more than stopping in for 10 cent candy or ice-cream and asking Mr. van Koughnett to "put it on the tab". On these excursions our second stop was often to see the "Crane Lake Monster" in the North End. An imaginative cottager had painted a scary, toothy mouth and eyeball on a piece of driftwood that had become lodged in some rocks near the shore. I still remember the thrill that I felt as we pulled the boat over to watch the "Crane Lake Monster" bob up and down in the water. It eventually got washed away. I wonder if anyone else remembers it?

In 1990 our family cottage was officially transferred from my Grandmother's name to my parents, Peggy and Terry, just in time to qualify for the capital gains tax exemption before it was phased out. My parents had been the chief and loving caretakers of the cottage for years at that point and I know my Dad was so proud to officially own this little piece of heaven. The freedom and joy Terry felt while on Crane Lake; at the cottage, in the boat, fishing, and being with his family was absolutely priceless for him. Very sadly, my Dad passed away in February 1991 after a short, courageous battle with cancer. We are all so grateful for the treasure trove that we carry of fun, beautiful cottage memories with him.

My Mom Peggy has been the proud, capable owner and "CEO" of our cottage from 1991 to 2017. She remarried in 1995 and together with her husband Doug Shaw, they have taken great care of the cottage, the property, and have made the countless decisions required to keep everything running strong. She is our go-to person for everything and certainly, our much loved "Queen of the Castle". Nothing makes her happier than having us all together at the cottage. After attending a seminar at the Crane Lake Association AGM in July, 2017 about cottage succession called "Keeping The Family Cottage in The Family", Peggy took the lead in contacting a lawyer and beginning the process of transferring cottage ownership to my husband Oliver, and I. We navigated this process together, with a lot of conversation and careful listening, and all of us with the understanding of the legacy that Uncle David began. From the beginning, I feel that my family has always held the belief that each generation is a steward of this beautiful place for the next. This is a place for all of us to enjoy and we share the desire to protect and care for it. Oliver and I have become the stewards of Ramsey's Legacy for this time. I don't know what the next 50 years will hold, but I am so grateful for the vision that my Uncle David had 50 years ago for a cottage on Crane Lake with a western view and a rocky point. I am honoured to be a part of his legacy.



Fire Safety Committee

Bruce Sanderson



As I write this we are still in the clutches of winter, but with glimpses (and many warm thoughts) of more balmy weather to come. While my immediate cottage thoughts are about whether our roof will survive the weight of the snow load again this year and how much the ice will shift the dock crib, my next thoughts are about fire safety. Especially considering the major forest fires just north of us last summer. As a reminder, or for those of you who aren't familiar with the details, here is some information about last summer's forest fire activity in Ontario.

- In 2018, Ontario experienced 1,325 reported forest fires covering 276,356 hectares, compared to 776 fires in 2017 covering 111,955 hectares, and a 10-year average of 757 fires covering 111,487 hectares. Indeed, 2018 will bring up the average significantly.
- 29% of the fires in 2018 were caused by human activity and 71% were caused by lightning strikes. 12 fires had an undetermined cause.
- The closest large fire to us was called Parry Sound 33 (the 33rd reported fire in the Parry Sound fire district). It started July 18, 2018 and consumed a total of 11,363 hectares of forest before it was extinguished. It was declared "under control" on August 23rd and officially "out" October 31, 2018. When the wind blew from the Northwest, many people on Crane Lake reported smelling smoke (which not surprisingly freaked them out).
- There was one forest fire reported on Crane Lake, across from the marina, near the rope swing. It was put down within a few hours by Seguin Fire Department and thankfully, consumed less than one half hectare. The Seguin Fire Chief believes it was likely caused by an unextinguished cigarette or match (human activity).

We sincerely hope that 2019 has a much lower incidence of forest fires than 2018. To do our part, we must always be vigilant and observe the best fire safety practices, whether when enjoying a campfire, storing and handling flammable liquids, or setting off fireworks.

Speaking of fireworks, an article we have reprinted in this edition of the newsletter talks about the chemicals and metals contained in fireworks and how they can affect humans, animals and our waterways. Equally important however, is the risk of an errant spark igniting a forest fire. Although fun to watch, I believe that propelling explosive devices into the air, with no ability to control the dispersal pattern of the sparks, has no business in cottage country. I have personally witnessed examples of where miss-handling by people igniting fireworks or manufacturing defects have caused either risk to human life, property damage, or started small fires, including an incident on Crane Lake where irresponsible behavior caused the ignition of a small brush fire. Luckily it was quickly extinguished.

The kick-off long weekend of the summer (Victoria Day) is just around the corner, so it's timely to offer some quick tips and reminders to help you be fire safe.

- Watch the Fire Danger Warning signs posted on Blackstone Crane Lake Road and Healey Lake Road to see what the current Fire Danger rating is as you drive to Crane Lake. You can also put a link to the Township of the Archipelago website on your phone to get the latest Fire Rating information, which is posted on the

home page: <http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/>

- Read the Fire Safety section in your Crane Lake "Preserving Paradise" binder. If you don't have one you can contact the Crane Lake Association and become a member at <http://www.cranelakeassociation.ca/become-a-member>.
- Review the Bylaws regarding Campfires and Fireworks on the TOA website at <http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/> on the "Your Government" tab. These Bylaws are also reprinted in the Crane Lake "Preserving Paradise" binder.
- Familiarize yourself with your legal obligations and more safety information on the Ontario Government website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-rules-and-permits> and <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires-safety-information>. This page also has a link to the current Forest Fire Situation Map for all of Ontario.
- NEVER start a campfire at the cottage or set off fireworks when the fire danger rating is "High" or "Extreme" (Total Fire Ban).

By average temperatures measured world wide, this year is forecasted to be the warmest in human history. Whether that will translate into a hot and dry summer in cottage country will depend on the weather patterns. However, if the patterns are similar to last year, with the severe forest fire activity in the near north and far north of Ontario, we need to continue to be vigilant and observe the best fire safety practices to protect our little corner of paradise.



Membership Report

Steve Neugebauer

It's that time of year again! It's time to send in your association dues for 2019.

For the 135 Crane Lake Association members that supported us for 2018, I hope you will continue to support us for 2019! For the 89 cottages that are not members, including those whose membership has lapsed over the years, I hope you will (re-)join the membership in 2019. The association membership dues for 2019 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.

We hope that all Crane Lake property owners will join us at the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July. You can pay your membership dues at the AGM, by Interac e-Transfer to Steven Neugebauer – CLA.Steve1@gmail.com, or forward your cheque payable to **Crane Lake Association**, to the Membership Secretary:

**c/o Steven Neugebauer,
32 Arden Crescent, Scarborough, ON, M1L 3R5, Canada.**

Please do not send cash by mail.