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President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

The autumn months have been spectacular with the stunning forest colours and warm temperatures and it seems, somehow, just a little too difficult to comprehend that winter is right around the corner. Thanksgiving weekend was gorgeous, and it made closing up the cottage that much easier this year, dressed in shorts and t-shirts! What a fabulous end to a terrific summer – a summer that just didn't seem to want to quit! It is always so hard for those of us that traditionally end our 'cottage season' on Thanksgiving weekend, or shortly thereafter, when the weather is so nice as we lock the door and say good bye to Crane Lake for another season! For those that are lucky to stay, or visit during the winter months, please capture the spectacular winter vistas by photos and post them to our website so that we may all appreciate the

stunning beauty of Crane Lake covered by a blanket of snow!

As we look forward to a new year in 2016, it is always good to reflect back on the cottage season of 2015. Your board of directors presented the Crane Lake-Lake Plan at the AGM. This endeavour undertaken by various individuals commenced in the summer of 2013 and, as you all know, the results of the surveys and workshops pointed our focus primarily on the quality of our water in Crane Lake moving forward. This primary focus should encourage all of us to be fully engaged in those activities and practices in and around our own waterfront properties that will help us to preserve and enhance the quality of our lake water.

Also at the AGM our Board introduced its' next project. With the intent to communicate important facts regarding life on Crane Lake with every property owner, their family and guests, the board is creating a reference binder that we hope to distribute to every property owner next summer. Your board members will be working hard throughout the winter months to pull this together. This has been on our

Newsletter Highlights

Councillor's Report

Ian Mead's update includes the most recent information from Council, with news regarding the permitted use of ATVs in Ward 5

Page 2

Buoy oh Buoy!

Bruce Sanderson gives us a look into the new markings at three locations on Crane Lake. Learn more about these yellow buoys you may have seen on the water.

Page 4

Water Quality Report

Devon Piirto continues to do an exceptional job of keeping tabs on the beautiful waters of Crane Lake. Devon's regular update on the water quality shows some interesting results for the summer of 2015!

Page 8

Fire Committee Report

Bruce Sanderson's update into the Fire Committee reviews legal requirements and the exciting addition of two automatic defibrillator units to the Fire Committee supplies!

Page 10

Project 2025: The Perimeter Swim

Devon Piirto shares the news of the Perimeter Swim, a project of Crane Lake cottager Kate Lissauer. Learn about the story of this 80km swim!

Page 12

'to-do' list for several years and we are excited to finally be able to commit to its publication!

Our Regatta was another big success this year and once again the weather cooperated for us. Despite strong winds that made the canoe/kayak races a little more challenging perhaps, it was a great day for all! Results of the Regatta will be in our next Newsletter along with a few photos from that fun-filled day!

Our relationship with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve remains strong and we are proud to support their excellent work. We encourage everyone to visit their link and read their "Life On The Bay" Guide. This energetic publication is an excellent resource for every waterfront property owner.

The following articles will bring you up to date on the other on-going activities of your board and your Councillor, Ian Mead. We hope you will take a few minutes to enjoy this Newsletter. And, on behalf of all of your Crane Lake Association Board, we wish you a very merry Christmas, wonderful Holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year in 2016!

Councillor's Report

Ian Mead

Here it is the end of September and what a great September it has been. It hasn't been long since the last newsletter so I'll keep it short.

ATV's in Ward 5

I'm sure most if not all of you are aware that ATV's are now permitted on roads in Ward 5. Once again I would like to thank those of you who participated in my E-mail poll. You make it easy for me to know what the majority want and that makes my job so much easier. Once again – Democracy in action!

Blue Green Algae on Horseshoe

You may or may not know that there was a blue green algae bloom on Horseshoe Lake during the first part of August. This was the second time on Horseshoe, the first being in 2010. This is a bit disturbing as Horseshoe is upstream to us in our watershed. To

help remedy the cause of the bloom, Seguin has partnered with the GBBR (our environmental arm) to help restore the shoreline at the bloom site and hopefully prevent it from happening in the future – at least at that site. Scientific research at this time points to loss of shoreline vegetation as a key cause of Blue Green outbreaks. As a result of our "Love your Lake" program earlier this summer, the GBBR acquired funding to do a good size shoreline planting at Crane Lake Resort. Please think twice before removing any vegetation on or near your shoreline.

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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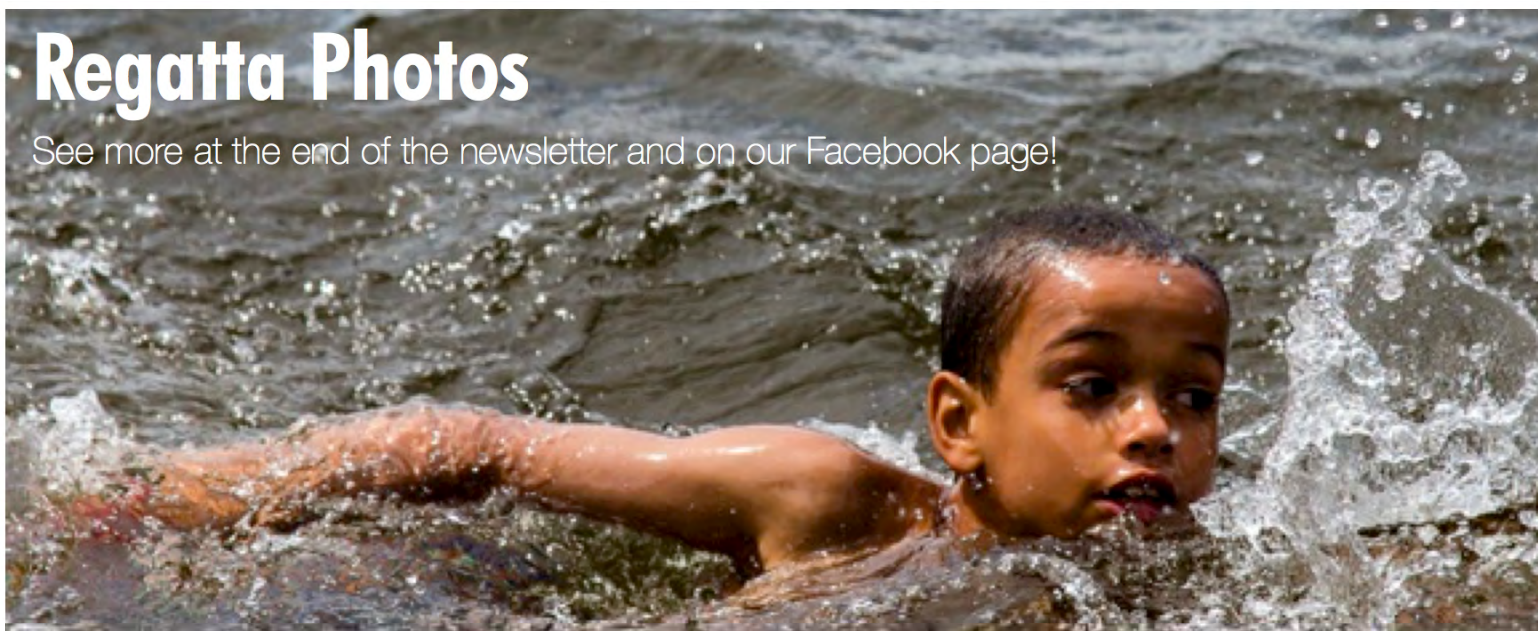
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Regatta Photos

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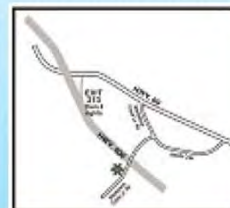
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Buoy Oh Buoy!

Bruce Sanderson



As a relative novice to the underwater landscape of Crane Lake (other than what I can see from above the water), I have to say that the project I took on relative to securing the buoys to mark three major hazards around the lake was an eye-opener and quite fascinating.

First of all, please know that the decision to place marker buoys by the Crane Lake Association has been a lengthy process, and rests on the foundation of the desire to protect cottage owners and guests from potential personal injury or damage to our watercraft, supported by the CLA membership. In any endeavour of this sort, legal liability always comes into play. For example, what happens if a buoy comes loose (as happened with all 3 buoys placed by the CLA this summer) and is not placed back soon enough and injury / damage results? Or what if a buoy is removed too soon in the fall or not replaced soon enough in the spring and injury / damage results? Ultimately, the decision for the CLA to take on the responsibility is because of our “Safety First” concern.

For a little background, most of you are aware that there has been some kind of marker buoy at Bump Rock for many more years than the 11 that I have been on Crane Lake. There have also been floating plastic ducks anchored on the submerged rocks in Overflow Bay sporadically over the years. Your Crane Lake Map shows several other locations of shoals and rocks around the lake, including Gull Rock across from Lorna Island, the rocks near Walker’s Point, the rock in Bathtub Bay and the rocks near the glass cottage (across from Sand Island). In addition, some cottagers have placed buoys / balls out from their docks marking hazards near their shore. I recently found out that the orange ball placed by the Piirto’s each year off Camp Point actually marks a shoal as well. Lastly, as I personally have observed from some low speed tours of some of the lake perimeter, and as many of you are probably familiar with in your own

sections of the lake, there are countless shoals, rocks and other hazards near the shores of Crane.

Since it would be highly impractical, literally impossible, and very unsightly from a scenery and beauty standpoint to mark every single hazard on the lake, common wisdom is to only officially mark locations further from shore in high traffic areas that would not be readily visible by a high speed boater. Bump Rock is the perfect example of this as it is almost submerged at high water times and sometimes invisible during wave action on windy days or from passing boats. Closer to shore, where speeds are reduced, it is up to the conscientiousness and local knowledge of the boat operator to avoid hazards and keep their passengers and watercraft safe. This is, in fact, part of the care and control responsibility of all boat operators – never operate a watercraft (or swim) in unfamiliar waters or without proper safety precautions or navigation aids.

This brings us back to the three markers that the CLA has decided to purchase, deploy and maintain. All of the CLA markers are yellow (they look a little like Minions) and we have added “Crane Lake Association” around their circumference in black lettering. There is also a reflective tape around their upper circumference for night visibility (only if you shine a light on them at night).

For consistency, we decided to replace the old bump rock marker with the same kind as we were originally purchasing for Overflow Bay. The new bump rock buoy has been in the water continuously (summer and winter) for about 2 ½ years now, overwintering twice in the ice. Since it has not deteriorated visibly in that time, we are going to try the same with the two other buoys and monitor the results. The Overflow Bay buoy was initially deployed in the summer of 2014 and removed for the



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winter. The Second Narrows buoy was first deployed in the spring of 2015.

Because of rope chafing, the Bump Rock buoy disengaged the day of the annual Regatta this summer. Both of the other two buoys disengaged within the previous two weeks. As this was an incredible coincidence, initially I jumped to the conclusion that we had a saboteur on our lake. However, closer investigation of all 3 (obviously not very durable) ropes showed abrasion was the culprit. Since the new buoys have a galvanized steel D ring on the bottom and the rope was passing through this ring and attached to a counterweight, the up and down motion of the water caused the rope which was rubbing on the ring to eventually fray and break (some sooner than others). I therefore determined to utilize a more durable method of attachment. All three buoys are now attached to their concrete block anchors with clothesline (light duty steel cable with a vinyl cover). Annual inspections (when the water is warm of course) will check for rust, wear and movement of the anchor.

Finally, as hinted at the beginning of this article, I have provided a little narrative on each of the buoy locations below, including my observations of the underwater structure. Note that these may not be completely accurate, as I was only using a diving mask and snorkel and my observation time was very short. I was not there to map the underwater terrain, but place the buoy anchor, secure the buoy and move on. However, my cursory inspection was still very enlightening. Also note that during each deployment there was at least one person in the boat while someone was in the water.

Bump Rock

The tallest “bump” part of Bump Rock is the “tip of the iceberg”. Bump Rock looks like a very large boulder, and is one of a series of rocks and boulders resting on a plateau of earth and rock which peaks about 5 feet below “normal” water level. The highest rocks that sit on this plateau vary from just cresting normal water level to about a foot below. This mound of land slowly declines to each side of the “bump” towards the deeper sections of the channel. The growth of underwater moss and other plant life on the top of the mound of land suggests an earthen top, as the two other locations (Overflow Bay and the Narrows) are still bare rock. Since the mound is fairly flat on top, placing the concrete block anchor was pretty simple. A funny note is the number of concrete blocks on the lake floor in the immediate vicinity of bump rock, evidence of many years of placing and retrieving hazard markers.

Bump Rock’s location, almost in the middle of arguably the busiest thoroughfare on the lake and its stealth demeanour make it extremely dangerous. That is why, for many years, it was the only hazard on the lake to be marked.

Overflow Bay

This hazard is a large elevated section of rock rising out of the lake that is predominantly flat on top creating what looks like a large table about 15 to 20 feet wide and at least 50 feet long. For the most part, the water depth on the top of this table varies from as little as about 18 inches to about 4 feet. Thanks to my helper Sue Biggs at this location, who walked and swam around on this hazard to help locate the old anchor (after the buoy broke free) and deploy a new one. The buoy has been placed approximately in the centre of the hazard, but because of the length of the table, avoid it early when approaching it from the north or south.

The reason this hazard is so dangerous is that it is situated about one quarter of the width of the bay away from the west shore (perpendicular with the only cottage along that section of shoreline) and right in the path of any boats circling the bay for a tour or towing skiers, boarders or tubers. As recently as the past couple of years, I’ve heard of a pontoon boat almost grounding itself on top of this rock table. Outdrives at planning speed would not fare well in an altercation with this piece of the Canadian Shield.

Second Narrows

This is an interesting hazard, reminding me of the way the earth’s plates thrust up where they meet to form mountain ranges. The rocks here are slanted down to the east and drop off more sharply to the west. There are two peaks about 15 feet apart, on a line perpendicular to the shore, with a dip between them. One peak is about 4 to 6 inches lower than the other. I’m told that these rocks may be part of an underwater ridge that extends from the south shore of the Second Narrows to the north shore of the Little Narrows, but with the murkiness of the water here, I couldn’t confirm that. Standing on top of the highest peak with the water up to my waist was quite interesting, with passing boaters giving quizzical looks.

This location is also one of the most travelled sections of waterway on Crane Lake, with the tight quarters causing boats to travel almost the same path every time through. Located about a third of the width of the narrows from the south shore the two rock peaks present twin targets for outdrives, more particularly during times of low water levels, like during dry summers or in late fall. During “normal” water level, the higher of the two is at a depth of about 42 inches. I can confirm that this hazard reaches outdrive level at certain times due to an incident with my own boat about 10

years ago while cruising slowly through that location with about 6 people on board. The sharp thud made me stop to inspect the prop, and the repair that winter was to replace 1" of missing metal on the bottom of the skeg. In my defence, since starting to talk about this hazard, I've heard at least a dozen stories of similar incidents. Some people have said they have been travelling that channel all their lives and never had a problem. I say they just haven't travelled the right line in the right circumstances to hit the peak of this underwater mountain!

I wanted to also mention that we have had at least one comment that the Second Narrows buoy was placed with the intent of slowing people down. Although that was not the intention, the objective being to prevent property damage during low water, the speed issue definitely crossed our minds. Many people are still not aware that within 30 metres of shore (100'), boating speed must be 10 kilometres per hour or less by Ontario law. This hazard is approximately 30 metres from shore.

Although when I took on the function of better securing the CLA buoys and deploying the new Narrows buoy I didn't originally intend to do the work while actually in the water, I'm glad I did as it gave me a whole new perspective on what lies below the surface of Crane Lake. I hope you found this article interesting and informative. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you can contact me directly, or any member of the CLA Board. Safe boating!

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Water Quality Report

Devon Pliirto



What a wonderful September we have had. This is the time of year when we finish our water testing and while some years gathering samples early Sunday mornings has been a very cool proposition this year I thoroughly enjoyed cruising from spot to spot in the beautiful fall sunshine.

Our test results for the year were interesting. As the summer progressed the clarity of the water seemed to improve which is counterintuitive as one would expect as the water warms that there would be more organic material and bacterial growth in the lake which would make the lake less clear. Certainly our bacterial testing supported that as general bacterial activity (Total Coliforms) really spiked in September though the “bad” bacteria, E.coli, was within our target values.

| Date | Clarity (metres) | Total Coliform | E Coli | Weather |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| June 27, 2015 | 4.4 | 34 | 3 | Clear, dry, warm; water 24C |
| July 12, 2015 | 4.2 | 74 | 4 | Clear, dry, warm; water 24C |
| August 4, 2015 | 4.1 | 73 | 11 | Storms in last 36 hours; water 23C |
| August 16, 2015 | 5.0 | 80 | 5 | No rain in last 48 hours; water 27C |
| September 6, 2015 | 5.3 | 307 | 7 | No significant rain, hot; water 24C |
| September 20, 2015 | 5.8 | 739 | 8 | Some rain in last 48 hours; water 20C |
| Average | 4.8 | 218 | 6 | |

Target for E.coli is 10 and Total coliform is 100

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) which now oversees our water testing program is hosting a water quality workshop in late October which I will attend to get a better understanding of how to interpret this year's test results. There may also be some changes in our testing protocol for next year so please check back in our next newsletter for an update on what was discussed.

Enjoy the rest of the year!

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Fire Committee Report

Bruce Sanderson

In the event of a fire or medical emergency on Crane Lake, call 705-751-FIRE.

Another summer is in the books (sigh) and it's a good time to both look back and look forward. Looking back, two major milestones this year for this committee and for the benefit of everyone on Crane Lake are the contract signed between the TOA and Seguin Township to provide Fire Response to all dwellings / buildings on Crane Lake, and the acquisition of a new fire pump for our fire boat. I have written in past newsletters on both these items so I won't go into a lot of detail here. These initiatives are inter-related, as Seguin's crews can utilize our fireboat for a faster response, and they are familiar with our equipment. Some of you may have seen Seguin firefighters on the lake during the late summer. They had small teams on the water 3 or 4 times over several weeks to familiarize themselves with the lake.

Looking forward, at this summer's AGM the membership voted to acquire two more AED's (Automated Emergency Defibrillators) to add to the one we already have, and place them in strategic locations on the lake to reduce the time required for anyone on the lake to retrieve one and return to the site of a heart incident. Our current defibrillator is kept on the fireboat at the marina and the plan is to place the new defibrillators in the fire boxes at each end of the lake (Goebbels Bay location and the South end location). The new defibrillators will be in place early next year. I'll provide more details as we go forward, but if you haven't been exposed to one of these devices in your daily routine, whether it be in your place of work, local recreational facility, or other public building, there are two quick pieces of information of note: 1 - these devices are extremely user friendly and once turned on they talk to you, explaining each step that you are to follow. 2 - these devices will NOT deliver an electric shock unless they detect an irregular heart rhythm. This makes them easy to use and safe to use, as someone cannot unnecessarily be shocked. We'll provide further information going forward to help people become familiar and comfortable with our AED's.

October is Fire Safety Month, so that's a great lead in for some fire safety tips! I've already seen most of the big box hardware stores advertise items like fire extinguishers, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, safety ladders, etc., including Lowes, Home Depot, Home Hardware and Canadian Tire. Take advantage of these sales to either update or add to your safety equipment complement at the cottage or at home. To recap current provincial laws:

- A Smoke Detector is required on every level of your home or cottage, near sleeping areas.
 - Conventional wisdom is that you should also have one inside each bedroom.
 - Smoke detectors that are hard-wired into your electrical system are good (most new homes in the last 15 to 20 years have these) because when one detects smoke or particles of combustion and sounds off, every

detector in the home that is connected to it also sounds off. However, separate battery operated models should also be installed, as the hard-wired ones won't work during a power failure unless they also have a battery backup. I purchased and installed hard-wired models with battery backup from Kidde to replace my old units at home.

- Remember that all detectors have a lifespan (most need to be replaced after 10 years). Also don't forget to test all your detectors at least monthly and replace the batteries every year.
- A Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector is required in every structure with a fossil fuel burning appliance, or an attached garage.
 - Fossil fuels include wood, natural gas, propane, pellets, coal, etc., and "appliances" include furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, water heaters, etc.
 - A CO detector on every level of the home / cottage is highly recommended.

Not currently in law, but also highly recommended:

- Fire Extinguishers strategically located in the home are a great first line of defence.
 - The kitchen, the garage and the basement are key locations for extinguishers, and also near exits from the building.
- A collapsible safety ladder is an excellent device to keep under the bed in 2nd floor bedrooms. When needed, they quickly hook over the window sill and provide a safe access to the ground.

While we're talking about Fire Safety Month, it's a great segue to announce the renaming of the Crane Lake Association Fire Committee to the "Fire Safety Committee". I believe that this title better represents the functions and focus of our committee. From acquiring and maintaining our fire-fighting equipment (pumps, hoses, storage containers, our fire boat and other accessories), our medical equipment (defibrillators) and increasing awareness about things like smoke detectors, fuel storage, burning bylaws, etc., it all relates to safety.

As I was unable to attend the AGM this year and do my Fire Safety Committee presentation in person, I decided to attempt a video version instead. I'm told it was well received at the AGM, and our Secretary Ross Fraser posted it to the Crane Lake Association website. If you haven't seen it yet, I've included the link here. It is intended to be an update of current activities, but it's also good for a laugh and you might see some more like this in the future. <http://cranelakeassociation.ca/fire-committee-update-video-summer-2015>

And finally, regardless of what you are doing this fall and winter or at any other time of the year, remember to "Think Safety First". I look forward to seeing you on the lake next year!



Project 2025: The Perimeter Swim

Devon Piirto



The Perimeter Project is the brainchild of Kate Lissauer, a longtime cottager on Crane Lake. By way of background, a group of women swam the length of Crane Lake, about 9 kilometres, one glorious weekday in August 2003. Looking for another goal, Kate suggested it would be fun to swim the perimeter of our lake. Undaunted, a group of us took up the challenge, naming it Project 2025 in recognition that this is a long term goal: the shoreline is approximately 80 kilometres; we are not getting any younger and we need Crane Lake to be warm in order to swim for up to an hour at a time.

The perimeter swims began late in the summer of 2014 at the river mouth in the north end. We are swimming the lake counterclockwise, for up to an hour, about every other day for the middle weeks of the summer. Each swimmer has a personal map to record swims. Some make notes, like chased by a beaver, others record dates, distances and times. Last year we swam five kilometres, reaching Fred Nagy's dock. This year we swam from there, over 10 kilometres, getting as far as the northern point of the east side of Green's Bay. We have been joined this year by some south end and Blackstone swimmers. Sometimes swimmers make up sections they have missed; once we had guest swimmers for a total of 11 in the water. We are indebted to our coaches in boats who deserve medals for keeping us safe throughout the project.

We are grateful for the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with our beautiful Crane Lake in a very unique way. We now know aspects of the shoreline that many will never see. If you are interested, join our email notice list by contacting Monica Gemeinhardt at Monica.gem@hotmail.com. See you in the water!



Crane Lake Regatta 2015

Photos by Larry Schreiner



Crane Lake Regatta 2015

Photos by Larry Schreiner

