



**Annual General Meeting**  
**July 9th, 2016 | Crane Lake Resort**

[www.cranelakeassociation.ca](http://www.cranelakeassociation.ca)



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[cranelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cranelakeassociation@gmail.com)



## President's Letter

Darlene Cade Fraser

The excitement of returning to the cottage is mounting! The roller coaster ride of remarkable, unpredictable, weather changes we have experienced over the past several months, has created an overwhelming need for weather stability with gorgeous, sunny days of summer ahead! While young new plants fight to find their way above the wet soil in these early days of April, despite sudden bursts of snow storms and below average temperatures, we are preparing ourselves with plans to 'Open the Cottage'. For those of us who visited the annual Spring Cottage Life Show this year at the International Center in Toronto, it was obvious, from the crowds of people that attended, we are all longing for the same thing - a return to the dock, to the peace and tranquility, to the call of the loon, and to gatherings of family & friends. It's almost time to head back to Crane Lake!

As the world around us changes every day, there is one constant that we must not lose sight of on Crane Lake. The quality of our water – it is our most important legacy. It is what brings us back, year after year, generation after generation, and we must continue to learn for ourselves, and educate others, on how best to protect it. Crane Lake is precious. We are very fortunate that we are still able to enjoy the freedom to swim, fish and play in the water without concern. But, as we know, to retain this quality, it takes hard work and commitment from each of us. Nature has a way of 'turning the tide', suddenly and quickly, should she feel we are not earning her respect. So, in 2016, let's

move forward with a renewed enthusiasm to make that added effort to maintain, and make better, the quality of the waters of Crane Lake! There are several, easy steps to consider as you open up the cottage this year:

1. Take a walk near your property shoreline and become more familiar with the habitat, the natural environment that exists there. This is the filter on your property for Crane Lake. The multitude of trees, shrubs and grasses that live along your shoreline absorb the pollutants and harmful contaminants (manmade or natural) that have found a home in our soils; they provide a vital habitat to fish and wildlife; and they aid in the erosion of your property. Be active this summer in learning more about your shoreline and what you should do to improve or sustain the natural buffer which protects our water quality.
2. Take a walk around your property and notice the fallen leaves and pine needles. While it is tempting to rake away this debris, if we leave it on the ground, its natural purpose as ground cover is to prevent the erosion of our soils. Any erosion of soil into our Lake encourages increased growth of algae and aquatic plants resulting in reduced clarity of our water and a reduction in its quality.
3. As you walk around your cottage checking for any winter damage, pay extra attention to your eaves troughs on your roof. Eaves troughs are essential in helping reduce potential erosion of our soils. The runoff from the eaves troughs should be controlled so the rain water empties into a rain barrel or a catch basin of stones and plants to slow the flow of the rain water allowing it the chance to

be filtered and cleansed through the soil before running into Crane Lake.

4. After a busy day of working outside, take a moment to gaze out of your window at the beautiful vista in front of you. Remember the view from the lake into the forest is equally as important as our view of our lake. Take a moment to consider how your property looks from the lake, and how you should choose to maintain the natural growth around your cottage to retain that vista for others. By maintaining the naturalization of our properties, the trees, bushes and wild plant life protect our soils, and thereby, our lake quality. So, before you consider 'chopping' down a few trees to improve your view from the cottage, perhaps, instead, just trim some branches. There is an excellent article in this newsletter which speaks to this critical component of protecting Crane Lake.

The work of the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, by their 'Love Your Lake' Program, has resulted in a personalized shoreline property report for each of us on Crane Lake. The information contained in these reports is invaluable and should be adopted by everyone as a great starting point to increase our own stewardship to preserving and improving our life on Crane Lake. Be sure to visit [www.LoveYourLake.ca](http://www.LoveYourLake.ca) for more information on this great program.

As you are all likely aware by now, the owners of Crane Lake Resort have requested from the Township of the Archipelago permission to cancel their commercial Marina Resort status and have applied for a site-specific residential status, subject to a condominium application. Part of their application requests that certain parcels of their land be transferred from commercial 'Resort Marina'

status to commercial Marina status and be severed to enable the marina to continue operations under private ownership. Our councillor, Ian Mead, will assist us in monitoring the progress of this process.

Your volunteer board of the Crane Lake Association wishes each of you a wonderful summer ahead. Be sure to stay in touch with us through the website [www.cranelakeassociation.ca](http://www.cranelakeassociation.ca) and attend our 2016 AGM to be held on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Crane Lake Resort.

## Councillor's Report

Ian Mead

### Kids in the Biosphere

As you may or may not know, The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (our environmental partners) have put together a program called "Kids in the Biosphere". It is an excellent program that gets kids involved in learning about and caring for the environment in and around their cottage and lake neighborhood. My wife Lynda and I have volunteered to organize this on Crane Lake this summer. If you have younger children or grandchildren you may want to get them involved. I will be sending out an E-mail update in April.

### Tax Bills

You will have received an "interim" tax bill in late January. When it was issued, I had numerous questions regarding what some items were all about. I also think that the document is confusing and not so straightforward. As a result, staff are working on creating a

document on the TOA's website where you can go to get a complete explanation of virtually any figure on the tax bill. I will let you know when that is available. In the interim, if you have any questions, just send me an E-mail and I'll get the answers.

### 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 -lan

### Councillor Contact

Address:

206 Crane Lake Water  
The Archipelago, Ontario  
P2A 0B7

Phone:

705-378-2089 - summer  
705-484-5235 - winter  
905-301-4583 - cell

## Editor's Note

Ross Fraser

### Monica Gemeinhardt

Our Fall 2015 newsletter included an article about the Perimeter Swim taking place on Crane Lake. While Devon Piirto did forward on the submission for publication, the article was attributed in error to her. The author of the piece was Monica Gemeinhardt. Our apologies to Monica for the mixup and our thanks for her submission to the Newsletter!

Members interested in submitting articles to the newsletter, or who have any questions for the Crane Lake Association, can contact us at [cranelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cranelakeassociation@gmail.com).



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# Fire Safety Committee Update

Bruce Sanderson



Wow, what a (non) winter (so far)! Hope I don't jinx it but my gut feeling is we won't get much of the white stuff this season, at least down in the city (GTA). Hopefully this will not be the general case in the north, as many things are affected by the lack of runoff in the spring, including our lake levels, bug populations (not sure which way that one goes) and the dryness of the forest.

2015 was a pretty good year for the Fire Safety Committee and to the benefit of Crane Lake families. We took delivery of and installed the new pump on the fire boat (did I tell you she's a beauty?), we re-canvassed the mid-section of the fire boat, the AGM saw a motion carried to purchase 2 additional defibrillators for strategic placement on the lake to support heart emergencies, and we entered into our first year of 911 Fire Coverage under contract with Seguin Township. In 2016 we plan to rewire the fire boat electrical system (a fairly inexpensive but time consuming project for a couple of our committee members), work on our education initiatives, including Fire Safety procedures for all cottagers (what to do in case of an emergency), and continue to reinforce Ontario Legislature and Fire Marshall laws and recommendation regarding Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide detectors and Fire Extinguishers.

And to kick that off, here (again) in a nutshell are the key rules and recommendations:

- Every structure used for habitation, with no exception (including bunkies / sleeping cabins), MUST have a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms are required on every floor of a structure and are best located near sleeping areas. When in doubt, the more the better. Never disable these alarms or remove the batteries. You could be charged for not having a smoke alarm or having a non-operating smoke alarm.
- Effective since 2014, every structure which has a fossil fuel burning appliance or an attached garage must have an operational carbon monoxide detector. For clarification, fossil fuels include wood, pellets, natural gas, propane, gasoline, coal, etc. Appliances include wood stoves, furnaces, heaters, lamps and any vehicle run on an internal combustion engine (automobiles, boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.).
- Tip: Change the batteries in your Smoke or Carbon Monoxide alarms in the spring when you open the cottage and test the alarms monthly. For units with lifetime batteries, check them monthly. Batteries exposed to freezing temperatures may not always operate as intended. Replace old Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms according to the manufacturers' recommendations.
- Fire Extinguishers are not yet law, but are highly recommended for all structures as well. The best location for mounting one is near an exit, so you can easily grab it on the way into, or out of, the building. Other good locations are kitchens, garages, workshops, sleeping areas and the basement (especially if it doesn't have a direct exit to the outside).

We're always looking for new members on the Fire Committee, to help in maintaining our equipment, to assist with new initiatives, and to help our neighbours in a first response scenario in the event we can arrive before the professionals. If you have organizational skills, administrative abilities, mechanical knowledge, or you just want to know how to operate the equipment and like to help out, please feel free to contact me. I'm also available if you have any questions related to the Fire Safety Committee. I can be reached at [brucesanderson@outlook.com](mailto:brucesanderson@outlook.com). Have a great 2016!



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# Water Quality Forum

Devon Piirto



At the end of October the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) hosted a meeting to discuss water quality in eastern Georgian Bay. I attended with my husband, Eric, as did over 50 other people. Did you know that there are 4 other organizations that focus on this same body of water? They are:

- Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council
- Georgian Bay Association
- Georgian Bay Forever
- Georgian Bay Land Trust

These groups have complimentary roles and all view this part of the world as unique and worth preserving. Combine these groups with representatives from the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change and the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forests and you have a meeting of some pretty interesting folks who know a whole lot about Georgian Bay and its watershed.

The morning included presentations from the two Ministries, one dealing with fish population and the effects of invasive species and the other on phosphorus monitoring in the Bay area. In the afternoon we were separated into two groups and we (Eric & I) attended the session that focused on monitoring programs for in-land lakes and enclosed bays. As most of you know we have been testing Crane Lake for bacteria as well as clarity for decades. We have also been participating in phosphorus and clarity testing with the Ministry since 2002. In this session we discussed the value of these different testing programs with the scientists who were present. The end result of these discussions was that based upon the science the most important things for us to test to

understand the health of our lake are phosphorus and water clarity. While testing for bacteria is important for the safety of public beaches the testing protocol we have been using for bacteria in large bodies of flowing water such as Crane Lake really does not offer any good scientific data. This came to me, given how much time I and others have invested in this, as a bit of a shock. I expressed my concern to the group that this may not be received well in our waterfront community since water quality is our greatest concern. An excellent discussion ensued about what aspects of bacteria production we as cottagers can actually impact and it really comes down to one key factor – our septic systems. If our septic systems are not working properly or are overloaded then we could be directly adding health affecting bacteria to our lake. Sampling a cup of water in 6 different locations of a lake the size of Crane, 6 times a year is not a very efficient way of determining if someone's septic system is potentially contaminating our water. We need to find a better way.

So where do we go from here? Well for this year we are going to continue testing for bacteria while we do some research on what tools we can make available for cottagers so each of you can take responsibility for monitoring your septic systems. I expect to be able to present information in this regard at our Annual General Meeting this summer so please plan on attending. In the meantime if you have information on septic systems that you would like to share please forward it to me via the CLA general email account- [cranelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:cranelakeassociation@gmail.com)





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Hi, Everyone:

The 2016 cottage market looks like it's off to an exciting start this season with many enquiries coming in from the G.T.A. Low interest rates along with high home prices, consumer confidence, and greater accessibility with the HWY 400 corridor, make Crane and Blackstone Lake a two hour+- drive from the Golden Horseshoe. We have a beautiful Lake system that compares to no other in the District of Parry Sound-Muskoka. I have been in the Real Estate business for forty-nine years and have sold property on practically every lake in the District. I can say without reservation, we have the best lake systems anywhere.

Royal LePage In Touch Realty Brokerage, along with our parent company, Royal LePage Niagara Realty, has fourteen offices, 500 sales staff and all our sister offices across Canada and the U.S.A., total over 14,000 sales representatives working on your behalf. If you are contemplating selling, or would like to have an idea as to the value of your property, please call me. I love to talk about Real Estate. Service is personal and discreet. I live on Crane Lake. This is my home and I intend to stay here.

Regards,

Gary R. Jennings, Broker

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# A View from the Cottage: The Art of Sightline Pruning

Matt Logan

The following is a resource provided for circulation in our newsletter by Logan Tree Experts, written by Matt Logan. Matt is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor and owner of Logan Tree Experts in the Peterborough and Kawartha region. He is the Head Judge of the annual Ontario Tree Climbing Championships, writes for the ISA Ontario Arborist trade magazine and sits on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Chapter of the ISA. This information is shared for your information and if you are inspired to do some pruning and are looking for an ISA Certified Arborist in your area visit [www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist](http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist).

\* \* \* \* \*

In my opinion, few things in life are better than sitting on your front deck looking out onto the water, feeling the warmth of the sun and hearing a gentle breeze rustling through the trees. Now that's a great day at the cottage.

Great cottage views are not always 'born'—sometimes they must be created or nurtured. Trees often create that “special place” feeling, but they can also obstruct our scenic views.

As a Certified Arborist\* I talk to a lot of shoreline owners about sightlines and vistas. People want the sunlight and the view, but they don't want to create an unnatural look by “stripping” the bottom limbs or one whole side of a tree. Many cottage owners don't realize that there are options other than tree removal. Sometimes a good pruning by a trained hand is all that is required.

Sightline pruning is a technique used by arborists to capture specific desired views while minimizing and/or eliminating the negative effects of whole tree removal. By leaving trees standing, many benefits are retained: shade and privacy, habitat for animals, wind and snow block, energy savings, aesthetic and increased property value. Imagine keeping all that, plus gaining a view!

In my experience the key to a great sightline pruning is good communication between the arborist and the client. Specific desired views should be discussed (“Is a view of the island achievable?”). Goals should be set and agreed upon by all involved. I always tell my clients that subtle and natural solutions always look the best. For example, reduce the length of a limb instead of removing it completely. When done expertly, sightline pruning is almost invisible; you see the view, not the cuts.

The best results come from sightline pruning with the clients on site to direct and monitor progress. If the sightline is from the deck, I would have them sit on the deck (I know it's a tough job but someone's got to do it) while we work. From there, they can confirm when the desired view is created.

Some final tips: As with any tree issue, make sure you use a qualified, Certified Arborist with the proper insurance coverage. Remember, bad tree care, even if done with good intentions, still leads to negative results. Bring in a professional, and open up your vistas. When the work is done, all that's left is to sit back and enjoy the view!

\* What's an arborist? A professional in the cultivation, health, management and study of trees, shrubs and other perennial woody plants.

For more information contact Logan Tree Experts to speak to an ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor. Call 705-652-6916/705-657-6916 or email [contact@logantreeexperts.com](mailto:contact@logantreeexperts.com). Visit our website at [www.logantreeexperts.com](http://www.logantreeexperts.com).



## Dr. Tracey Beaulne ND, R.Ac Naturopathic Doctor & Acupuncturist is at Crane Lake this summer!

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# Treasurer's Report

Steven Neugebauer

As of December 31, 2015, our combined bank/savings balance was \$34,883.78. The 2015 income was better than budget, and expenses were worse than budget. While Income was better than budget, mainly due to several members that caught up on their previous years dues, we did not reach our target of 140 members paid for 2015. Regarding expenses, we experienced greater than budgeted expenses for Capital, Office/Miscellaneous, Regatta and Association Fees. Regarding Capital expenses, the fire pump was \$6,178 (\$770 more than budgeted), and a new cover for the fire boat/pump originally budgeted for 2016 was \$735 incurred in 2015. Regarding Office/Miscellaneous expenses, the spring repair of the public boat launch was an unplanned \$500 expense. Regarding Regatta expenses, as the beach area is no longer populated or cleaned by the Resort, the geese cleanup squad was an unplanned \$339 – we can expect this to be a new recurring annual expense. Regarding Association Fees, we have joined as charter members of the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, which cost \$100, and would be a new recurring annual expense.

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$8,147	\$7,200
Expense	\$8,592	\$6,912
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$445)	\$288
Balance at January 1, 2015	\$4,705	\$28,428
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$4,260	\$28,716

*Note these numbers are based on certain assumptions for some 2015 expenses that are not yet submitted, and these figures have not yet been reviewed. Our financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015 will be available at the 2016 Annual General Meeting in July, as well as a current update to our financial position.*

For 2016, our plan shows a net loss on the Operating Fund for \$632. This is attributed mainly to a couple of factors including additional recurring expenses mentioned above, and inflationary costs affecting Communications and Regatta expenses. This planned loss is also based on assuming more income than normal: assuming we reach our 140 paid membership target, and also get our 2015 paid membership count up to 140 (9 members short) – if we do not reach these income targets, so our net loss could be more. If events proceed according to plan, 2016 would be our third year posting a loss to the Operating Fund.

In 2013 we had transferred \$5,000 from our Operating Fund to our Capital Fund so as to better reflect the amount of money available for Capital Expenditures. At this time it is felt that Operating Fund could be running short of funds, so we are transferring back \$5,000 from our Capital Fund to our Operating Fund. This will be evident on our 2016 financial statements.

The following are the 2016 budgeted financial figures:

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund
Income	\$8,335	\$7,450
Expense	\$8,967	\$4,500
Transfer	\$5,000	(\$5,000)
Net Gain (Loss)	\$4,368	(\$2,050)
Balance at January 1, 2015	\$4,260	\$28,716
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$8,629	\$26,666



# Membership Report

Steven Neugebauer

It's that time of year again! It's time to send in your association dues for 2016.

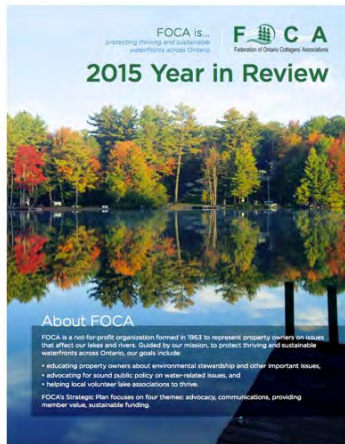
For the 131 Crane Lake Association members that supported us for 2015, I hope you will continue to support us for 2016! For the 85 cottages that are not members, including those whose membership has lapsed over the years, I hope you will (re-)join the membership in 2016. The association dues for 2016 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 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July at the Crane Lake Resort. As always, you can pay your membership dues at the AGM or forward your cheque payable to the Crane Lake Association, to the Membership Secretary: c/o Seven Neugebauer, 32 Arden Crescent, Scarborough, ON, M1L 3R5, Canada. Please do not send cash by mail.

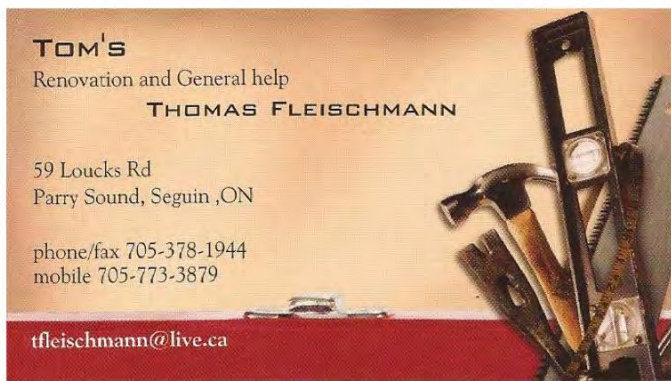
## FOCA Year In Review

The Crane Lake Association is a member of FOCA, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. Each year, FOCA releases their 'Year in Review' publication, which highlights some of the excellent work done on behalf of more than 500 member Cottage, Lake and Road associations and 50,000 individual property owners throughout the province.



Read a copy of the Year In Review at: <https://foca.on.ca/foca-year-in-review-2015/>

Beyond the resources provided to Associations like the Crane Lake Association, there are other benefits of FOCA Membership to our members as well. Visit <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/> to learn more, including discounted pricing on Cottage Life Magazine!



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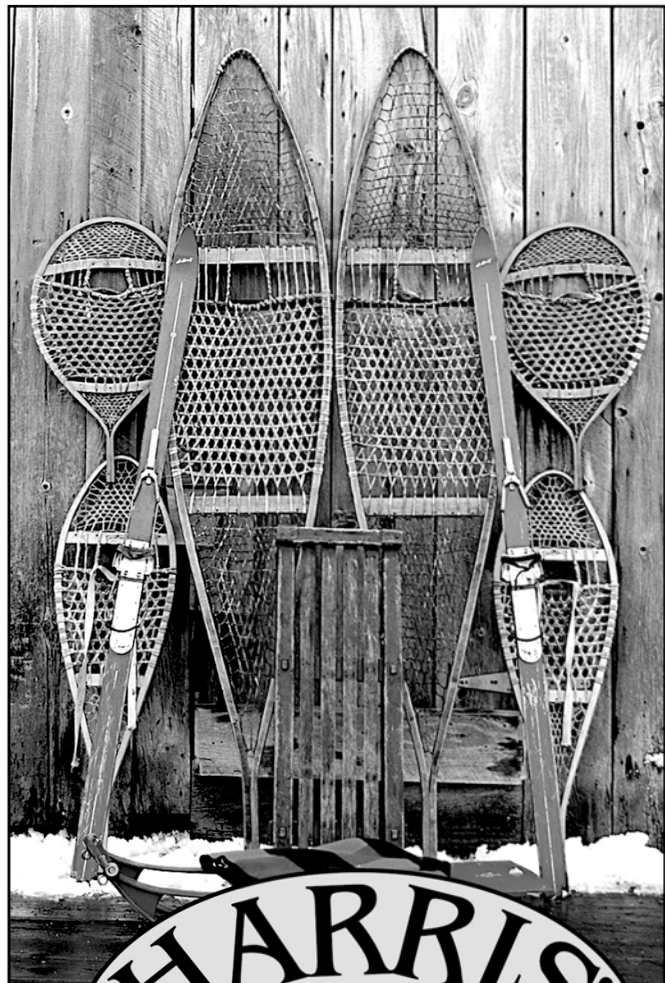
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