

KLCA

“Preserve the Heritage”

Reflections 2014

To help us get the yearbook ready in time for the May long weekend, please send us your fantastic photos, stories, recipes, poems, etc. by **February 7**.

If you are stuck for ideas, consider sending photos or stories relating to the spring flood, our crazy recent winter weather or the south shores moose, Lucy.

Art or stories by your children are always most welcome!

Send all *Reflections* material to Sara Goodchild Condie at reflections@klca.org or by snail mail to 211 Glenlake Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P



President's Message

John McHardy (KLCA President)

Greetings and on behalf of the Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association Board of Directors, I hope this newsletter finds your 2014 off to a good start! The weather so far this winter has certainly been rather "interesting" - it started with colder than normal temperatures because of an Arctic Vortex with frost quakes followed by some mega snow dumps, ice storms and for some extended power outages. Things were starting to look like winters "I remember growing up when.....". More recently the temperatures have resembled a spring- like thaw. (cont.)

Upcoming Events

Poker Rally

February 8

Run by the Tall Pines Snowmobile club out of Lions Camp Dorset.

Dorset Snowball

February 14 & 15

A weekend of winter fun for the whole family!

KLCA AGM

July 5

Come hear from the KLCA, local leaders, and a guest speaker.



President's Message (continued)

Your Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have been working hard over the past year on your behalf on a number of activities you might not be aware of and this newsletter is an opportunity to update you about a few:

Water Levels - The spring flooding last April was the result of the "perfect storm" sequence of events that Eric Millar, Director for Water Levels, wrote a good summary about which is posted on the KLCA website. Eric continues to meet regularly with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) tracking water levels and his report later in this newsletter talks about an extremely wet fall. If you have been to the cottage recently and are thinking the ice is lower than normal you would be right. Eric advises the MNR has lowered the lake level to record lows due to saturated ground levels as a result of the very wet fall and higher than normal snowfall accumulations so as to minimize the chances of Spring flooding.

Septic Inspections - The Director of the Environment, Ron Schwark and I have been tracking recent developments at the township level, as they assume responsibility for septic inspections from the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit. The four townships in Haliburton County were advised in the fall that effective December 31, 2013, the HKPR would no longer perform this service. This transition of responsibility is having a significant impact on the Townships as they need to train staff and step up to the increase in workload. I am pleased to say that both Townships our cottages are situated in (Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al) are on side with the KLCA regarding the seriousness of septic inspections. However, they have yet to map what their respective roles would be implementing mandatory septic inspections and follow up remedial actions. The majority of both Councils along with their key Admin staff attended a one day information session (as did

Ron and I) organized by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owner Associations (KLCA is a member) about the lessons learned by the Township of Huron-Kinloss when they implemented a mandatory septic inspection program.

We have been busy travelling to other information sessions---one organized by the Township of Dysart et al regarding Lake Health and another attended by Township personnel providing a high level perspective of what should go into a mandatory septic inspection program.

The KLCA is continuing to drive the question of mandatory septic re-inspection as our top priority with both Townships.

Dorset Community Support - The KLCA Board of Directors on your behalf this past year has provided financial contributions to:

- Moorelands Camp as a thank you for hosting the Regatta.
- Dorset Volunteer Fire Fighters to assist with equipping a boat used to respond to emergency calls on Bear and Kawagama Lakes.
- Minden Hills flood disaster relief
- Dorset Community Partnership - purchased a bench to be located on the dock near the Bigwin boat to assist in funding community projects.

Communication (Cell) Towers - Several of you may have noticed improved cell service at the cottage last summer. This was a result of the cell tower disguised as a pine tree erected by Bell Mobility. The full saga of how the KLCA successfully influenced Bell's decision to change from an ugly metal tower to a more esthetically pleasing mono pine tower is fully covered on the KLCA website. (www.klca.org)

President's Message (continued)

The Algonquin Highlands Township Council responded very quickly to the KLCA request they implement a policy to guide communication tower approvals and implemented one that is excellent. Given the important role the policy played (along with the considerable public input organized by the KLCA) in the Bell Mobility mono pine decision the KLCA will be requesting Dysart et al Township consider adopting a similar one as they currently do not have one.

KLCA Board of Director Membership Changes:

- Leslie Henderson after many years (10 +) of dedicated volunteer service in a number of capacities on the Board of Directors, most recently as Director of Communications, felt it was time to let someone else have a turn and has retired. She set the bar high and will be missed.
- Alisa VanDerToorn has joined the Board as Director of Communications.
- Robert Bill has joined the Board as Director of Fisheries.
- Adrian McInerney has been Chair of the Navigation Committee for many years and most recently completed the conversion of the navigation markers you see around the lake to a type requiring noticeably less maintenance. He decided it is time to let someone else have a turn and is looking to retire from the Board effective July 2014 AGM. He has generously committed to working with his replacement during the following marker out (Fall) and marker in (Spring) seasons. *If anyone is interested in getting involved to replace Adrian please contact the KLCA at: info@klca.org.*

Natural Shoreline Inventory Project - Studies have shown that in order to maintain the quality of the water we are so fortunate to have in Bear and Kawagama Lakes a minimum of 75 % of the shoreline for 30 meters back from the water needs to be natural. We are looking to conduct a project arranged through the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations to assess and rate the current shoreline according to a scale of how close it is to a natural state. This will establish a baseline for comparative purposes in future years. The assessment will be conducted by university students using boats, and access to anyone's property will not be required. All findings will be held by the KLCA Board of Directors and reports will be at an aggregate level only; i.e., data at the individual property owner level will not be published or shared.

Nurse Practitioner Station - The Dorset Community Partnership Group and their Dorset Health Care Team have been working for 2 years to establish a nurse practitioner station in Dorset. This would be a facility located in Dorset providing professional health care 5 days a week. It would supplement health care provided by your doctor and would be able to dispense some medications. This is an initiative the KLCA Board strongly supports on your behalf and will be pledging funds to be contributed in the event the application seeking to establish the nursing station is approved hopefully within the next few months. More information can be found at:

[http://www.dorsetcanada.com/pdfs/NPS Brochure Informational .pdf](http://www.dorsetcanada.com/pdfs/NPS_Brochure_Informational.pdf) and how to pledge your support at **<http://dorsetnursepractitionerstation.pledgepage.org>**.

This has been a thumbnail of a few things we are working on and I would appreciate any feedback at: **info@klca.org** or **P.O. Box 98, Dorset, ON. P0A 1E0.**



Regatta Raffle

Peter Evans (Regatta Co-Chair and Boating Safety Director)

I hope everyone is enjoying all the snow this winter has brought and you've had a chance to get up to the cottage to see beautiful Kawagama in white!

As you know, we run a raffle at the Regatta every year, along with a silent auction for larger, more valuable items. We donate all the proceeds back to the Moorelands Camp, who so graciously host our event year after year.

In an effort to make the raffle and silent auction a little more exciting and raise more money, I am hoping that you can consider making a donation to our prize table. I know that through business, we often have access to merchandise, tickets, and products. It would be great if you could donate to the raffle and help

make that Moorelands cheque grow.

My office is in Richmond Hill, Ontario (details below) and you can send items to me, which I will collect and warehouse until the Regatta date. I am also happy to arrange to pick any items up, if you contact me by phone or email. We'd love to get some marquee items like a BBQ or any other products popular at the cottage. When the summer begins, you can also drop off any items at either of the two marinas.

If you have any questions, my details are below. Thanks so much and only a few more months to spring!

ICON Digital Productions Inc.
25 Sims Crescent
Richmond Hill, Ontario,
Canada L4B 1C9
905-889-2800 ex. 222
peter.evans@icondigital.com

Other KLCA Projects

There are a number of other ongoing activities being undertaken by other Board members and Committee Chairs, such as the water quality measurements taken by Todd Millar, management of our finances by our Treasurer Jen Watson, organization of our famous regatta by Andrea Daly and Peter Evans (plus a small army of volunteers).

Bob Buckingham, is the Vice President and Jim Kaufman, who is Past President, represents the KLCA on FOCA (www.foca.org) as a FOCA Director. Julia Sutton works on environmental projects with Ron Schwark. Sara Goodchild-Condrie, is the Director responsible for our impressive yearbook "Reflections", and Robert Bill is the Director of Fisheries. We will focus on these in more detail in upcoming newsletters.



Development and Municipal Update

Stefan Szczerbak (Development and Municipal Liaison)

We are looking forward to the 2014 municipal elections. If you are interested in supporting a candidate or if you are interested in municipal politics or know someone that may be interested, please visit your Township's website and review the information related to the election.

Growth management for the County of Haliburton will be conducted this year and 2014 county/local municipal budgets are being or will soon be reviewed as we write this update.

Related to the Dorset community, Algonquin Highlands have recently made and have further plans to update the Dorset Scenic Tower area, the public parkette along Highway 35 and the Dorset Recreation Centre. There are also big plans for the former school property that include a soccer field, picnic shelter and washrooms.

The S.S. Bigwin is running. I encourage everyone to book a cruise on this beautiful boat. There are big plans to promote this boat and also provide new economic development opportunities for the Dorset area.

Finally, there is a good possibility that Dorset may be awarded funding to build a Nurse Practitioner's Station. This would bring necessary professional health care to the greater Dorset community.



For more information on any of these items, please see:

- The County of Haliburton (www.haliburtoncounty.ca);
- Township of Algonquin Highlands (www.algonquinhighlands.ca);
- Municipality of Dysart et al (www.dysartet.al.ca) or visit their Facebook page or follow on Twitter;
- Township of Lake of Bays (www.lakeofbays.on.ca) or follow on Twitter and
- Dorset (www.dorsetcanada.com)

Finally, if you become aware of a proposed development application that concerns you or you feel that it may offend applicable Official Plan policy or the values of the KLCA, please contact me via our general e-mail address: info@klca.org.

Water, Water Everywhere

Eric Millar (Water Levels Director)

Although it has been almost 10 months since the 2013 spring flooding and shoreline infrastructure damage, it is still fresh in our minds. Details of how Kawagama and Bear lakes fared versus our neighbouring lakes was posted on (www.klca.org) in June under "news and events."

What may not be as obvious has been the significant rainfall that continued throughout the summer and into the fall.

Taking the period of April to November, the historical average rainfall for Kawagama is 703 mm. For 2013 the total was 996 mm. For the same period in 2012 it was 548 mm.

More detailed information to follow in Reflections 2014.

Communications Update

Alisa Van Der Toorn (Communications Director)

It is our pleasure to keep in touch with all members of the KLCA in a timely and cost-efficient manner and this newsletter is just one of the ways to keep you updated. Here are some of the other ways we stay in touch:

- The 2014 Annual General Meeting on July 5th at the Dorset Recreation Centre at 10:00 am
- Monthly e-mail updates in the summer
- Annual January newsletter
- Website: www.klca.org
- Email: info@klca
- Annual *Reflections* yearbook (to be mailed in the spring)
- Annual Regatta at Moorelands Camp. Please check our website in the spring for the date.

Please send an email to membership@klca.org or write to us at KLCA, Box 98, ON, P0A 1E0 if you have changed your mailing or email address.

Membership Update

Marion Michinsky (Membership Director)

Happy New Year! Our membership last year stood at 467. This is down from previous years. Perhaps the “non-summer” contributed to this, but your KLCA executive was hard at work despite the weather. Please read “The Value of KLCA Membership” in the newsletter to fully appreciate all that your membership fees fund. We know that in many families, multiple generations enjoy the cottage. **Please encourage all generations** to become members in their own right. The more voices we have, the stronger your KLCA is.

Over the years, people have asked that all

family members’ names be included in *Reflections*. Unfortunately, there just isn’t room to include all the kids’ names as well as the cottage owners’ names. Better yet, why not take out a membership in the kids’ names as suggested above?

The membership fee this year remains at \$45.00. We have added a second email address on the membership form this year. Many families have more than one email address, and we hope this will ensure everyone receives updates and bulletins.

Website Revival

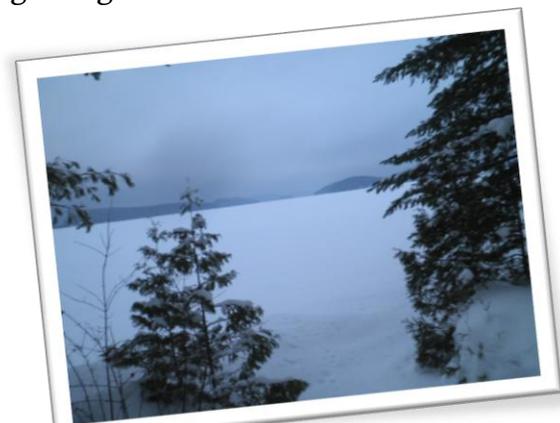
Pat Boyd (Secretary and Website Director)

The KLCA website (www.klca.org) contains useful information for Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association members.

Check it out to find out about KLCA initiatives and key dates for upcoming events such as the Dorset Snowball, Regatta and the AGM. Links to the webcams showing conditions at the two marinas and links to many other useful sites are always available. You can renew your membership by going to the website as well!

We're excited to be making changes to the website to make it faster and easier for you to find what you are looking for. We'd love to include some of your photos and stories as well -- it's easy! Just forward to info@klca.org.

Watch for upcoming announcements regarding the revival of the KLCA Website!



The Value of KLCA Membership

Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association membership is open to any permanent or seasonal resident of Kawagama and Bear Lakes. A vibrant membership will provide a strong and clear voice for sustaining and preserving these lakes for current and future generations. **Your Membership Makes These Programmes Possible.**

Lake Plan Management: Working with various environmental and government agencies, we influence policies regarding water quality, fisheries, lake levels and shoreline protection.

Political Advocacy: We represent our members at township and county Government meetings, on various Provincial Ministry Councils and other non-government groups such as; FOCA, CHA and other Lake Associations, on matters of concern to our members and any issues that will affect the well being of our Lakes.

Boating: We monitor, assess and make recommendations for recreational and safety issues on the lake and adjacent lands. Navigational maps are available at both marinas. In addition to sponsoring safe boating instruction the association also ensures that we **install and maintain water navigation markers** for your safety.

Planned Development: The association tracks proposed development in the area and actively participates in the planning process when the interests of Kawagama and Bear Lake cottagers and residents are concerned.

Environmental Awareness: KLCA supports members with a depth of educational material regarding environmentally responsible choices for cleaning products, natural plantings, shoreline restoration, landscaping, and septic system management.

Financial Support of Programs: KLCA makes significant contributions in support of local activities and programs such as, but not limited to, Dorset Firefighters, Dorset Community Partnership Group, FOCA, CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Assoc.), Local Disaster Relief, Kawagama/Bear Fireworks event and various Community Initiatives.

Reflections: Our Annual Yearbook that comes with every membership.

The Annual General Meeting: Held in July at the Dorset Recreation Centre - affords members the opportunity to meet with the executive team, friends and neighbours, and features a keynote speaker on a relevant and timely topic.

Winter Newsletter: An annual update of the current KLCA topics and events.

Our website: www.klca.org provides the most current information on our initiatives and events, including directors' status updates. It also links to important sites of interest to cottagers/residents. You can even link to a web cam and weather sites in the local area.

Annual Regatta: Fun activities for the whole family. Swim & Canoe races, beach program for kids, trophies, food, prizes---it's an event not to be missed. The Regatta is held at Moorelands Camp – Watch the website for time and date.

Don't Forget!

Submit your annual \$45 membership fee prior to April 1, 2014. Mail along with Page 8 of this newsletter or pay online through the website www.klca.org – members tab, click online application, make selection, then go to PayPal.

Send your Reflections yearbook submission to reflections@klca.org before February 7, 2014.

Mark your calendar for July 5th, 2014 for the AGM in Dorset.

Let us know at info@klca.org if you are changing your address or want to volunteer!