

CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

December 2011

www.christielakeassociation.com



Greetings from the President: Gordon Hill

On this mid-December morning the mist has enveloped The Lake. The near shore is plainly visible but the far shore and the islands have vanished, shrouded in mystery. There is no wind. The Lake is dead calm. Its glassy surface broken only by a few ducks paddling about, diving for food, enjoying their last few ice-free days in the true north strong and free before heading south. 'Tis a beautiful day at The Lake, just like every other day. A good day to sit by the fire, enjoy a cup of tea and reflect on the year just past.

2011 was a year of extremes. The winds of April 28, with gusts approaching 100 km/h, knocked out power on much of The Lake. Two days for some, more for others. Spring water levels approached, but did not quite reach, all time highs. Many permanent docks were submerged or lost; more than a few boat houses were damaged; debris was everywhere. Water levels were too high to launch boats or install docks removed during the previous fall. And as the weeks passed, water levels dropped, reaching lows in the late summer and fall not seen for many years. The drop from spring near record high-water levels to the fall lows may have been the most extreme in years.

But Mother Nature was not the only one responsible for extremes at The Lake this past year. The Social Committee, led by April Patterson and Donna Walsh, worked extremely hard so that we might enjoy a dinner-dance with live dance band and prizes galore. The best Christie Lake party in many years – perhaps since Christie Lake Anglers and Hunters Association held their annual bash at Farrell Hall.

The Lake Stewardship Committee, led by Austin Swezey put the finishing touches on the Lake Stewardship Guideline, the culmination of a 4 plus year project, yet another example of extreme dedication and effort by members of the Christie Lake community.

Not to be outdone in terms of extreme effort and results, the Website subcommittee, led by Larry Bowen (See the last page of this Newsletter for the cast of characters – and I do mean characters) spent countless hours designing, developing, testing and troubleshooting the new CLA website.

An outstanding effort with extremely good results!

Christie Lake residents are extremely lucky to be able enjoy the benefits of the dedication and hard work of a few.

As always, there is more to be done. Some new projects to be undertaken in the months to come, some existing ones to be improved or expanded. If you have a particular interest in one or more of our committee activities or would like promote a new one, we encourage you to let us know and to get involved. Don't be shy. We can certainly use your time and talents.

Wishing each of you a happy holiday season, a mild winter, an early spring and, most importantly, good health throughout the year ahead.

Watershed Watch: Brooke Briggs

RVCA monitors water quality on Christie Lake by collecting water samples in nine specific locations (identified by GPS co-ordinates), four times each summer. CLA assists with the monitoring program by providing a boat and driver. This past summer, samples were collected on May 3rd, June 28th, August 16th and October 12th. As a general rule, an effort is made to do spring water sampling in mid to late April, within 2 - 3 weeks of “ice out”. This past spring, unusually high water delayed boat launching and pushed the first water sampling day back to May 3rd.

The water samples provide a snapshot of the nutrient and ecoli levels and water clarity at particular times and places. While data obtained from a single sample is of relatively little significance, comparing data obtained over a number of years at the same time and from the same locations is helpful in identifying trends. The good news is: (a) the RVCA sampling program began about nine years ago, so we now have some meaningful data, and (b) there has been little change in water quality over the nine-year period. It also appears that water clarity is improving. But, sadly, that improvement is largely as a result of the dramatic increase in the Zebra Mussel population.

The following is an excerpt from an email report received from RVCA on November 4th:

“From a nutrient (total phosphorus and total Kjeldahl nitrogen perspective things look quite good. With the exception of one slightly elevated sample, all results were below the objective values and conditions seem to be remaining fairly consistent throughout the lake. *E. coil* concentrations were well below the Provincial Water Quality Objective of 100 colony forming units(CFU)/100mL at all monitored sites and no significant changes were seen in dissolved organic carbon or calcium concentrations.”

Lake Stewardship Committee (LSC) Update – By Austin Sweezey

Your Lake Stewardship Committee recently finalized the Lake Stewardship Guideline. This document has been posted to the CLA web site at: www.christielakeassociation.com . We invite you to visit the site and have a look. You can also download the document which is saved as a pdf. The document is 36 pages in length with lots of colourful maps, figures and tables. Don't have time to read it all? Have a look at the 3 page Executive Summary which outlines the key issues and action strategies for our lake. The focus of the Lake Stewardship Guideline is to educate and inform our lake community on issues that are important to us all. It also provides a roadmap for the board of directors and lake committees to continue effective stewardship. Key issues include: water quality, shoreline naturalization, fisheries, development pressures, building a sense of community, wildlife conservation and watercraft safety.

If you don't have internet access and would like a CD (free) or a hardcopy (\$10.) please contact Austin Sweezey at 613-829-1323 or info@christielakeassociation.com .

The Lake Stewardship Committee is currently acting on some of the strategies and initiatives outlined in the Guideline. We are continuing to communicate the benefits of natural shorelines and shoreline vegetation enhancements. Next spring we will again be providing native shoreline plants and advice to those wishing to improve the ribbon of life along their shoreline.

The committee is also working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County to identify ways to help the fisheries, such as further enhancements to walleye spawning beds and improved shoreline fish habitat.

We are always looking for help. If you see something that interests you in the Guideline or you have something else that we've missed please contact us.

Christie Lake Sailing Club: Gordon Hill

Enthusiasm and support for sailboat racing continued to grow in 2011. We were pleased to welcome Dave Hyslop, Drummond Wilson and Scott Garner to the laser fleet. Five race days were scheduled throughout the summer and a sixth was added by popular demand. Four to six short course races were held on each race day – most races lasting between 10 and 15 minutes each. Five to six Lasers took part in most races. David Hyslop and Diane Twemlow raced their Albacore on the first race day. As is our custom, racing was followed by Happy Hour, a few lies and much laughter and camaraderie.

Mark Hord proved to be the class of the fleet, winning the overall points total and the coveted Golden Tiller Trophy. After a slow start, Mark polished his hull, picked up the pace, and sailed consistently well, with 4 firsts and 2 seconds in the last 9 races. Brooke Briggs was second in points total, followed closely by Pierre Sirois (from the Oliver clan) and his son Xander who sailed as a team. Scott Hill gave the fleet a lesson on the third race day, winning all four races. Ian Bandeen and Lacy Samuels had strong showings in the Armitage Laser, and Jack and Matt Wilson (Dick and Joan's grandsons) served notice that the younger generation will give the old salts a run for their money next summer. Many thanks to John McAlpine who served as Race Committee for every race. More of the same is planned for next year. Your participation is encouraged.

Marker Buoys: George James

As a public service, all usual buoys were installed by mid-May and removed in late fall with the much welcome assistance of John McAlpine.

With winter soon upon us, we should all be cognizant of a now popular device: "Dock Bubblers or De-Icers". These are devices that some residents place out at their dock areas to keep them clear of ice. Once the lake has frozen and safe to travel on, it is *imperative* that you be cautious around/near these apparatus as the ice near them will be unstable. It is also **IMPERATIVE** that residents who use these "Bubblers or De-Icers" have proper and appropriate warning signs out alerting the public the potential danger



Membership and Directory News: by Apryle Patterson

This year our membership drive got underway in July. A big thank you to Tui Noonan, Jane O'Grady, Donna Walsh, Gordon Hill, Penny Nault, Gerry Gorham, Dale Ritchie and Bob Vergette who volunteered their time and canvassed on behalf of the Christie Lake Association. As a result of the door to door canvassing our membership numbers are back up to the 2009 total. We now have over 100 members.

As a committee we are continuing to look at other ways of recruiting members, such as posting the membership form on the website or offering incentives for purchasing a membership. Congratulations go out to David Hill who is this year's winner of a \$50.00 gift certificate to Fiddleheads Restaurant in Perth!

Work is underway to update the Christie Lake Directory which will be released in the spring of 2012. We captured some of the updates for the directory through our 2011 summer membership drive but if you have updated your email or had an address change within the last year can you please email changes/additions you'd like to see in the new directory "directly" to Penny Nault at, dpnault@xplornet.com or Apryle Patterson at aprylep@sympatico.ca, or Donna Walsh at dw.boomer@hotmail.com. Everyone who purchases a membership will be receiving a copy of the Directory.

I will be stepping down as Director of Membership and Directory this year. Penny Nault has graciously accepted the position. Welcome aboard Penny!

If you would like to help the membership committee or volunteer in some other capacity, please email Penny at dpnault@xplornet.com

Social Committee: Donna Walsh

We had a successful social calendar this summer starting in June with our now annual *Welcome Back Wine and Cheese*.



At the end of July all young fishing enthusiasts were treated to the *Kid's Fishing Derby*. All participants were rewarded with a prize of their choice for their hard efforts. The derby prize giving was followed by a hot dog/corn roast for all!



SPECIAL THANKS : To Al Jordan who once again let us host the Derby and Corn Roast at Jordan's. Not only did he set up the fire, get the firewood, set up the special cooker BUT he also helped cook and serve the corn and hot dogs! Way to go Al!

End of Summer Family Dance: by Apryle Patterson

Well another successful dance under our belts. This year's attendance sure proves that Christie Lake Cottagers love a good party. We had 140 attend the dance this year, that's the best yet!

Big thanks to a wonderful barbeque chef, super bartenders, wonderful dessert makers, everyone who donated door prizes and all the people who helped set up, clean up and put up with me.




The event could not have happened without you!
Next summer's dance promises to be the best yet!



Stay tuned details to follow in the Spring Newsletter!

Web Committee Announcement!

Core CLA Website Team



Chair - Larry Bowen *Donna Walsh* *Chris Ayotte* *Penny Nault*

The CLA Website Subcommittee is pleased to present your new Website.
Visit www.christielakeassociation.com



Christie Lake Association Inc.
Welcomes you

Our Vision:
"To sustain and improve the unique ecosystem of Christie Lake so that current and future generations may continue to enjoy this jewel in the heart of Lanark County"

In Appreciation...
This is now the 3rd generation CLA website. What many of you may not be aware of is that Ben and Austin Sweezy were the originators of our website when first launched in 2008. We might still be without this very important communication tool for our lake community if not for the pioneering efforts on Ben and Austin.

Lake News...
See the Christie Lake Stewardship Guideline dated November 2011
[\[more...\]](#)

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In closing....have a safe winter and we'll be seeing you on the lake soon!

