

CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter

<http://christielakeassociation.com>

*Dedicated to the memory of:
Wayne Fish - February 8; and
Robert "Bob" Palmer - April 18
Christie Lake icons that will be missed*



Greetings from the President: Gordon Hill

It was a long winter. The snow arrived in late November and finally left in the last week of April. The ice didn't leave "The Lake" until April 25, the latest "ice-out" in living memory. But here, at the Centre of the Universe, spring, like hope, springs eternal. Less than a month after the ice and snow departed, geese, ducks and host of other birds returned from their winter homes to renew their cycle of life; spring flowers, both wild and cultivated, graced the landscape; and trees were clothed in the first soft-green leaves of the season. The grass is green and ready to be cut. It's a beautiful time of year, perhaps a harbinger of the summer and fall to come. If only my riding lawnmower would start.

Mother Nature paints a beautiful picture. Sometimes she brings us rain, winds and plagues of leaf-devouring caterpillars that damage her picture for a while, as she did this spring. It has been reported that the winds of May 4 reached 90 km/h. The winds and artificially high water – courtesy of Parks Canada - were truly devastating to many docks, boathouses and some cottages. Things usually return to normal relatively quickly, as they have done again this year, but damage remains. Inevitably, mankind strives to improve on, or even harness, Mother Nature. It's almost always a mistake. Parks Canada has a mission to improve on Mother Nature's distribution of rainfall and snowmelt in the Tay Valley Watershed – and elsewhere. In our experience, its actions have proven to be less than stellar. Is our Water Level Committee making any progress with Parks Canada? I'll leave it to Bruce McIntyre and his committee report to bring you up-to-date.



The workings of Tay Valley Township ("TVT") continue to be a mystery, in part because an increasing number of issues are being dealt with in camera, away from public scrutiny, and in part because so many of Council's actions are controversial. This past summer and fall we witnessed allegations and findings of harassment, and resignations and extended sick leaves in the Building, Planning and Public Works Departments.

In recent months, Council passed bylaws detailing policies and procedures for dealing with complaints by TVT, residents against TVT staff, and vice versa. In each case, staff will investigate the complaints and decide the outcome of the complaints, and impose a range of penalties, if complaints are upheld. The public has no role to play in the process, apart from those who lodge complaints or are the subject of complaints. It is likely that they will be interviewed. If a staff member investigates the claims by or against another staff member with whom the investigator works on a daily basis, should the public be concerned about bias or the appearance of bias in the process? Does a bear sleep in the woods?

In the past 15 years, TVT's tax expenditures have increased from \$2,716,700 to \$5,453,364, an increase of \$2,736,664 or 100.73% - which averages out to 6.72% per year over those 15 years. By comparison, over those same 15 years:

CPI for Canada- all items on the 2002 base - has increased from 104.7 to 130.4, an increase of 25.7 or 24.55%, for an average increase of 1.64% per year;

CPP Maximum monthly payments (without supplements) have increased from \$814.17 per year to \$1,114.17, an increase of 36.9% for an average increase of 2.5% per annum.

Average 5 year GIC rates of the major Canadian banks have declined from 2.53% to 1.01%.

Over those same 15 years, assessments on waterfront property increased substantially more than those on other properties. As a result, owners of waterfront properties have seen their share of TVT tax expenditures increase beyond the 6.72% annual average.

Monday, October 22, 2018 is Election Day for municipalities in Ontario. Ideally, Councillors should be “detail persons” who have the education, training, skills and experience to (a) identify unintended consequences in proposals recommended by staff; and (b) review budgets in great detail for the purpose of keeping tax expenditures to a minimum.

TVT’s Clerk has advised that the Township does not host any all-candidates meetings. That responsibility is left with community groups or organizations. Your directors have approved, in principle, a plan to host an all-candidates meeting in August (after nominations close on July 27) if there are sufficient election contests to warrant holding such a meeting. At the date writing this message, it would appear that there will be a contest for Reeve (Keith Kerr and Susan Freeman). No other race appears to be contested as yet. More on that issue to follow in the weeks to come!

Best wishes to all for safe and happy summer!

Lake Stewardship Committee Initiatives: Austin Sweezey

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey – we will be continuing to monitor loon activities this season with this national program which is coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. We’re looking for folks who would be interested in observing and reporting on loons on the lake, mated pairs, nesting successes and failures and young raised. If you’d like to help by recording loons and chicks on the lake during May through August, please let us know. We can provide background info and survey tracking sheets. For more background information on this initiative check out: <http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/clls/index.jsp?targetpg=index>

Loon Nesting Platforms – variable water levels can be a challenge for folks on the lake.

The same is true for our loons. While loons are great swimmers, with feet positioned well back on their bodies, they aren’t so good at walking.

Hence, they build their nests very close to the shoreline. Even minor rises in water levels during spring nesting can flood their nests and if water levels drop too much they may abandon their nests if the distance from the lake becomes too great. Construction and placement of floating nesting platforms is



a way to help improve their chances of nesting success. Our plan to construct and deploy about 6 loon nesting platforms has been pushed from this spring, to September 2018. We plan to build the platforms and position them on shores around the lake where loons tend to hang out. Platforms will then be anchored in sheltered settings shortly after ice out next spring. If you’d like to help with construction or placement of platforms please let us know. And if you have any cedar logs at least 6 feet long and 5 to 8 inches in diameter that you’d care to donate, that would be great!

For more background on loon platforms you can check out these sources: <http://www.rideau-info.com/canal/ecology/loon-nest.html> and <http://www.birdscanada.org/download/CLLSloonplatform.pdf> .

Watch our website and Spotlight emails for project updates. For more info or to get involved, please contact Austin.sweezey@gmail.com.

Electronic Waste Drop-Off: Theresa Strickland- Camp Opemikon Director

Camp Opemikon has been operating since 1938. This year marks our 80th Anniversary and we have been offering youth from the Ottawa and surrounding area a place to go and enjoy the outdoors and learn how to enjoy nature.

As with any other facility that ages, so does our infrastructure and equipment- especially with thousands of youth and young at heart coming to enjoy our center. We are always looking for funding to help repair and replace equipment and upgrade facilities.

In 2016 we started collecting e-waste (old tvs, computers, cell phones, etc.) and we turn those items into money to help provide funds to purchase new tents, pdfs, archery equipment and repair facilities within camp in order to continue to provide great outdoor activities for our youth.

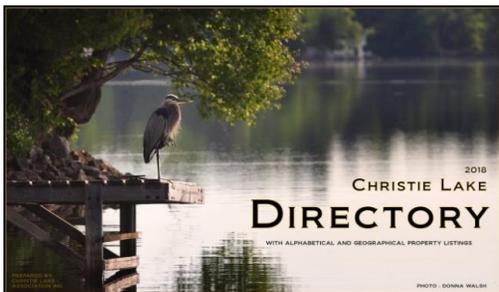
We accept all ewaste and items can be dropped off at our Camp location at 530 Hanna Road in Maberly or if you reside in Ottawa, items can be dropped off at our Scouts Canada headquarters at 1345 Baseline Road between 8-4 Monday to Friday. At camp items can be dropped off in camp at our camp office. We try to have a bin outside, however if not there, just set items on the ground in front of the building. If items are heavy, call ahead to Theresa 613-273-5291 and arrange a time to come and we will help unload.

We appreciate all assistance in helping provide outdoor activities for our youth and thank everyone who helps with this fundraiser.

Since 2016 we have collected over \$5000 from ewaste collections.
"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"

Membership & Directory Committee: Penny Nault and Donna Walsh

Preparations have begun for a **2018 Christie Lake Directory**. The format will be much the same as the last one and will include the lake map with a large, easy-to-read fold-out type. We rely on the information you provide us with on your membership form so please keep us informed of any changes. We do respect your privacy and will not publish information you ask us not to.



If you would like to advertise a business or service (appropriate for the lake community) in the Directory, please email Penny Nault at dpnault@xplornet.com and attach a jpg copy of your business card. The cost of a colour business card size ad is \$50.

The **Membership Drive** will get started very soon. We plan to deliver information packages around the lake during this month as well as July. There will be a draw again this year for a \$50.00 gift certificate to Fiddleheads for those who enroll or renew their membership.

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership. For those that haven't yet, you can do so by visiting the Membership page on the CLA website at <http://christielakeassociation.com/about-cla/membership/> where you can enroll on-line and pay your \$30 membership fee by credit card or PayPal, or you can download the Membership Form and mail it in together with a cheque for \$30.00. For your convenience, a copy of the 2018 membership form is included **at the end** of this Newsletter.

Your support and membership are welcome and needed. Membership dollars contribute to costs associated with many lake activities including the Spring Wine and Cheese, the Summer Dinner and Dance, the purchase

and maintenance of marker buoys on main water bodies, website maintenance, email accounts, road signage, donations to Christie Lake Kids Camp and Scouts Canada Camp Opemikon, just to name a few.

Communications & Website Committee: Penny Nault

We continue to keep you informed on important issues via CLA Spotlight emails and the CLA website. In addition to maintaining the website, we maintain two email accounts and 282 email addresses for the CLA Spotlight email distribution list. We rely on membership dollars to maintain these valuable communication tools so please consider that at membership renewal time. Many residents reap the benefit of receiving these communications but have not renewed their membership in the past. This is not fair to those who do pay membership fees.

Water Testing: Brooke Briggs

The first water quality sampling for the RVCA this year was done on May 7, less than two weeks after the ice out date of April 25. Water temperature was a chilly 6 degrees C.

The sampling crew generally consists of two (student) biologists who test as many as 6 sites around the lake for 5 basic lake health parameters - Phosphorous, Nitrogen, dissolved Oxygen/Temperature conditions, Ph and Secchi depths. A seine test is done usually once a year for the presence of invertebrate and / or invasive species at Jordan's bridge and the former marina bay.

The Conservation Authority observes strict sanitization procedures with all of its testing equipment, using only one set of devices on each lake in order to avoid introduction of possible invasive species.

Having volunteers to ferry them around each lake is a real benefit for the biologists as otherwise they would have to take their boat/canoe back to the HQ to have it "sanitized" before going to the next lake.

Data from sampling over the past 12 years, contained in the 2017 Tay River watershed report, indicates that Christie still enjoys a rating of Good to Very Good, in the top percentile of the 22 lakes regularly tested. Well done, Christie Lakers! Enjoy our rich environment! The Report can be viewed at <https://watersheds.rvca.ca/subwatersheds/tay-river/subwatershed-report-tay-river>

CLA Water Level Committee Update Spring 2018: Bruce McIntyre-Committee Chair

Flooding 2018

The winter of 2017/2018 saw less than average snow pack and during March 2018 water levels on Christie Lake were lower than normal as Parks Canada undertook to fill the Bobs Lake Reservoir. In early April, with Bobs Lake at capacity, we experienced several rain events that once again overtopped the Bobs Lake Dam. In an effort to drop levels Parks Canada removed logs from the dam and once again flooded Christie Lake! To add insult to injury in early May, with water levels at flood levels of 155.30M, we were hit by high winds from the west that caused extensive shoreline erosion and damage to both low lying properties and dock structures. The CLA Water Level Committee was in constant communication with Parks Canada and only when the waters had reached flood levels did they put logs back into the Bobs Lake Dam which provided Christie with relief.

Prior to the Spring 2018 Flooding CLA Water Level Committee spent much of the winter attempting to communicate with Parks Canada in the form of a letter to the Chief Executive Officer to express our concerns about how Parks Canada treats stake holders downstream of the Bobs Lake Dam structure a response was

finally forthcoming from Ms. Jewel Cunningham, the Director of Ontario Waterways. This response can be found on the website at <http://christielakeassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/CLA-Ltr-fm-Parks-Canada17-10-31J-Cunningham-for-Minister.pdf>

The Committee provided an extensive commentary on the “Detailed Impact Assessment” with respect to the construction of the new dam that will be just upstream of the existing structure. The construction of the new dam is slated to begin in June 2018 and will take until the Fall of 2019 to complete construction. Parks Canada has provided several updates which can be found at:

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/visit/infrastructure/tay/barrage-lac-bobs-lake-dam>

Parks Canada repeatedly has stated that the new dam will not alter their “Water Management” strategy and that it follows an established “Rule Curve”. Recent communications have indicated that Parks may be amenable to altering their water management strategy.

The CLA Water Level Committee is in the process of organizing a meeting with senior Parks Canada staff that will entail a boat tour of Christie Lake to point out damage caused by the extreme water level fluctuations to the environment and properties along the lake. If you would like us to point out specific damage could you please send a detailed email to cla.waterlevel@gmail.com. The Committee respects your right to privacy and will not discuss specific damage or any property details without permission.

The other point of note is that Parks Canada has launched their Water Management Info-Net on the Rideau System. The site has daily updates for water levels along the Rideau System including daily water levels at Christie and Bobs Lakes. It can be found at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/info/infonet>

The committee will continue to communicate with Parks Canada in an attempt to impress upon them that their Water Management Strategy has caused considerable harm to properties downstream of the Bobs Lake Dam. We are also studying how the new Bobs Lake Dam will affect downstream water level fluctuations on a seasonal basis.

Proposed Christie Lake Roads Renaming Project:

At a directors' meeting held on April 12, 2018, your directors established a new committee, known as the "Road Names Committee" based on a concern raised by Randi Sherman. Randi will serve as Committee Chair and Diane Briggs, one of your directors, has volunteered to serve on the committee.

With the similarity of private road names in and around Christie Lake, the possibility for confusion and/or a mix up that could end up with catastrophic consequences (e.g. an emergency vehicle not locating a residence quickly) is of grave concern. Tay Valley Township (TVT) has acknowledged that the way our road names read is a not an ideal situation and are willing to work with us.

The committee will study the feasibility of asking TVT Council to change some or all of the names of lanes currently named "Christie" Lane and "Christie Lake" Lane followed by a 2 digit number and also having a letter suffix.

The process for renaming an existing private road requires the majority of users of that road to agree to change the name, and to propose 3 new names for that road. As there may be a cost involved (administrative, legal and sign making), there would be considerable cost savings if multiple road renaming proposals are submitted together.

In view of TVT's 20th Birthday celebrations this year and Perth's 200th anniversary only 2 years ago, the committee is of the view that name changes which reflect the heritage and history of Christie Lake are more likely to be approved by TVT Council than more generic names.

The Committee is seeking volunteers to assist them with this worthwhile initiative. If you are interested or have any comments, questions, or concerns, you may contact Randi Sherman at randiian@bell.net or 613-791-5001. You may also utilize the [Contact Us](#) feature on the CLA website.

Tent Caterpillars in Ontario:



With the current outbreak of tent caterpillars frustrating many of us, here's a portion of an article that provides some insight into these creatures. You can read the rest of the report, which includes their life cycle, at



<http://docs.files.ontario.ca/documents/3175/state-of-resources-reports-forest-tent-caterpillar.pdf>

“Outbreaks of forest tent caterpillar occur in Ontario every 10 to 12 years and last anywhere from three to six years in a given location. The last forest tent caterpillar outbreak peaked in 2000/2001.

About the forest tent caterpillar: The forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) is native to North America and is the most widespread defoliator (leaf-eater) of deciduous trees on the continent. Outbreaks of this insect have been recorded in Canada since 1791. In southern Ontario, the preferred tree hosts are oak and sugar maple. During a large outbreak, this insect will eat the leaves of many hardwood trees, with the exception of red maple. Forest tent caterpillars are considered a forest pest because they impair the health of many hardwood trees and in some cases cause the tree to die. They are a nuisance to people because they appear in large numbers and produce silk webbing and droppings (known as frass) that disrupt outdoor recreation activities. When disturbed they also emit a greenish-black fluid, which stains paint and clothing”.....



Marker Buoys: Donna Walsh

Most shoal markers are now in place on the main body of the lake with the remainder to be placed shortly. Note that CLA does not place shoal markers in bays. Our thanks go out to **Ray Patterson** for placing the markers for all our safety!

Sailing - The Christie Lake Sailing Club (“CLSC”): Mark Hord

Hello friends! We hope you all had a very productive and successful winter. Even though we are a skiing family, the summer spent at Christie Lake is something we always look forward to each spring.

This is our annual plea for your participation in The Christie Lake Sailing Club sailing races. Last summer's races were indeed disappointing with the weather gods playing havoc on our race days – too little wind, rain, or in one case – too much wind and a lack of cottager participation.

We even had one race where one of the lasers actually broke their mast footing as a result of the extra strong winds.

In order for us to continue with a viable race programme we need a commitment from all our sailing community to participate in our races. If we don't have at least 4 sailboats committed to any race, it is too much to ask to

have the course set, the committee boat and statisticians available for that 2-3 hour window on a Saturday/Sunday afternoon – races will be cancelled. Sailors will still be able to sail that day but stats will not be kept.



At the same time, we recognize that many of you are very interested in enjoying the lake in your sailboats whether racing against others or just enjoying the warm summer breezes.

Here are the dates set aside for this summer's racing/sailing. We encourage you to be part of a fun, environmentally friendly group. Courses will be set by 1:00 pm in the centre of the lake. Participants will need to check in with the committee boat at 1:50 pm. Races begin at 2:00 pm. Races end no later than 4:00 pm. We usually try to get in about 5 races/day.

Saturday, June 30th – practice day, no stats taken Saturday, July 14th – Race 1 Saturday, July 28th – Race 2
Saturday, August 11th – Race 3 Saturday, August 26th – Race 4 Saturday, September 1st – Race 5

To confirm your participation in this year's races, kindly phone Brooke Briggs at (613) 267-1392 or email Brooke at briggs@storm.ca

Christie Lake Summer Dinner and Dance: Apryle Patterson

News Flash!!! The social committee has decided to change the format of the end of summer dance this year. We decided to turn it into a family event. We haven't had a family event for a while and thought it was about time. This year the CLA Directors are hosting a family Barbecue and dance. Everyone is invited young and old... for those folks who don't wish to attend the barbecue can always come for the dance after dinner. The festivities get underway at 5:30 August 25th at Camp Opemikon (the Scout camp). Appetizers, Dinner then dancing. Guaranteed to be a fun evening prizes for best dancers, door prizes and a 50/50 draw. Price for dinner and dance: Children under 5 are free; 12 and under \$5.00; and 13 and over \$20.00. Dance only \$10.00.

If you are new to the lake it is a great way to meet people and for those who have been here for awhile it is a nice way to get together with friends and neighbours.

Tickets can be purchased in advanced from your membership drive rep or at the AGM on July 14th or by contacting Donna at dw.boomer@hotmail.com.

True "Christie Lakers" coming back after a long winter....!



Social Events for your 2018 Calendar

June 23rd

Welcome Back Wine & Cheese

6:30 p.m. at Christie Lake Kids Camp.

Come get caught up with New and Old Friends! All are welcome! [B.Y.O.B.]

July 1st

Canada Day Flotilla! Decorate your boat in **RED** and White and join the flotilla! Meet at **1pm** at Big Island! The most decorated boat gets to lead the parade around the lake!



July 14th

CLA AGM 10:00-12 noon at Tay River Tent & Trailer Park.

August 25th

Family BBQ Dinner and Dance at Camp Opemikon!!!

5:30 start! Children 5yrs & under free, 6-12yrs \$5, 13yrs and older \$20.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the
CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC. ("CLA")

will be held on

SATURDAY JULY 14, 2018 10:00 a.m. at the

TAY RIVER TENT AND TRAILER PARK REC. BUILDING,

Christie Lake North Shore Road, about 1 km. west of its intersection
of Christie Lake Road / Althorpe Road.

Coffee, water and snacks provided

Hope to see you there!

Copies of approved CLA financial statements have been posted under 'CLA Financial Statements' on the CLA website at <http://christielakeassociation.com/about-cla/your-cla-organization/>. For those who do not have internet access, CLA will provide copies of the financial statements upon receipt of a request in writing.

Christie Lake Association Inc. (CLA)
2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM & DIRECTORY UPDATE
Annual Membership Fee: \$30 per Family



1. **Family Name:** _____
2. **Name of family members aged 18 years or older to be enrolled as CLA members for the year indicated above:**
(use reverse side of form if you run out of space)
- _____
- _____
3. **Lake Address:** Blue/White PIN # _____ Lane/Road _____
Lake Phone #: () _____
4. **Home Address:** _____ Apt. # _____
City: _____ Province/State _____
Postal/Zip Code: _____ **Home Phone #:** () _____
5. **Email Address(es):** _____ *(use reverse side of form if you run out of space)*
- _____
- _____

6. **Christie Lake Directory:**
- I consent to the publication of the information contained in items 1 to 3 above in the Christie Lake Directory.
- I consent to the publication of partial information contained in items 1 to 3 above in the Christie Lake Directory.
Do not publish: _____
- I do not consent to the publication of any information contained in items 1 to 3 above in the Christie Lake Directory.

7. **CLA Communications:** *(Spotlight Newsletters and Notices)*
- Yes, email CLA communications to me in the 'bcc' format. *(Note: new email addresses will receive a one-time request by email to 'opt-in' to receive CLA email communications as required by the new Canadian Anti-spam Legislation).*
- No, do not email CLA Communications to me. Mail printed copies of Newsletters and important Notices to me at my home address.

8. **Emergency Contact:** *(in the event you are unavailable to respond to property damage, fire, theft etc.).*
- Name: _____ Phone #: (____) _____
- Emergency contact information may enable CLA to notify members about matters requiring prompt attention. CLA accepts no obligation or legal responsibility to monitor members' properties, nor to notify them or their emergency contacts about such matters, but may choose to do so as a matter of courtesy.*

9. **Amount Enclosed:** \$ _____ *(cheque made payable to 'Christie Lake Association Inc.')*

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Send completed form and cheque to:
(or hand in payment at any CLA Event)

Christie Lake Association Inc.
P.O. Box 20058
Perth, Ontario K7H 3M6

Thank you for your support!

For information on what Membership includes, please visit the Membership page under 'About CLA' on our Website. If you have any questions or concerns, or require more information, please 'Contact Us' on our Website at <http://christielakeassociation.com>.