

## Spring/Summer 2022 Newsletter

<https://christielakeassociation.com>



### *Dedicated to the memory of:*

*James (Jim) Ernest Rogers Jan 21, 1930 - May 13, 2022*

*Timothy (Tim) James Shepherd April 22, 1982 - May 31, 2022*

### **President's Message:** Krystyna Williamson

As you read this, summer will be in full swing at the lake! We had a long, slow exit by Winter this year, culminating in an April 13th date for the disappearance of ice. Your Board has a friendly competition pool to predict the final date and we all missed it by quite a bit this time around! On the plus side, the cycle of freezing and thawing was great for the sap run and my husband and I enjoyed our first year of hobby syrup production. We had lots of friends around the lake to give us advice and equipment - special thanks to Alan Jordan!



Water levels never exceeded the spring norms and are already at summer levels so we may have to brace for some low levels this summer, depending on our weather. Overall, the continued engagement with Parks Canada by Bruce McIntyre on behalf of the lake, has been helpful in keeping them aware of the local impact of the new dam. Big thank you to Bruce for his continued diligence on this issue - it can feel like swimming upstream!

At the time of this writing, the low-flying excitement of the gypsy moth spray program has started - thanks to all who took the time to re-enroll this year. We are hopeful that with a second round of spraying we will get ahead of the caterpillar cycle and they will have moved on to other areas by next year. We will continue to monitor opportunities to keep our native species around the lake healthy and encourage our members to give us any ideas to help mitigate invasive species.

This summer we anticipate, finally, a return to more social activities with our neighbours. Of course, COVID is still circulating and people are encouraged to follow their own risk assessments and masks are always encouraged but not currently mandatory. With that in mind, your Board is in full planning mode to bring back events like the annual Welcome Back Wine & Cheese gathering (June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Kids Camp Arts Hall), the July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Day Flotilla, and an in-person AGM (July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Tay River Tent & Trailer Campgrounds). July 31<sup>st</sup> is fun filled with a North vs South Shore slow pitch softball baseball game followed by the return of the historic Christie Lake Corn Roast and Fun Day at Jordan's farm. Later that evening a fireworks show. Stay tuned to upcoming Spotlight emails for more information, but please consider signing up for our North Shore versus South Shore softball game - the rivalry is reborn! Lots of hands on deck will make the Fun Day more fun, so please contact CLA to volunteer for the day, and plan to come and enjoy time with neighbours, good food and our own Christie Lake musicians providing us with entertainment.

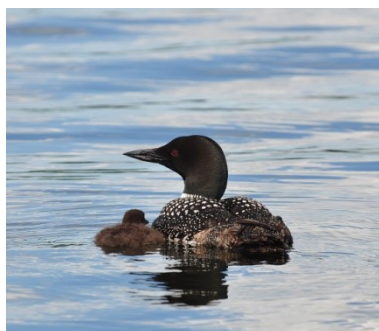
On a personal note, I'd like to thank the Board for all their hard work, most of which is uncredited and all of which helps our community stay connected. I also thank them for their support as our family went through the loss of my mother, a life-long member of the lake community. Heartfelt thanks to you all!

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and fun-filled summer  
Krystyna Williamson  
President, Christie Lake Association Inc.

### ***Lake Stewardship Committee Loon Initiatives:*** Austin Sweezey

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey continues with annual input from residents and cottagers at lakes across the country. Christie Lake has been contributing to this survey for several years. Although reporting has been lean with Covid concerns over the last couple of years, it is felt that one or two years of missing data in a long-term dataset should not have much of an impact on our ability to calculate trends over many years.

Some of our members who live at the lake are continuing our loon survey this season and data will be shared with Birds Canada. Our loons are back as usual around the lake.



They always seem to show up as soon as the ice is out!

Hopefully they will enjoy a successful nesting season.

If you wish assist with our survey or become aware of a loon nest or loon chicks please keep your distance but let me know about it so we can add to our survey info. I can be contacted at: [austin.sweezey@gmail.com](mailto:austin.sweezey@gmail.com)

More information about the details we collect for the survey will be provided in a future Spotlight.

More information about the loon survey can be found here:

<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/>

### ***Christie Lake Water Level Summary:*** Bruce McIntyre

Water levels were higher than average mid October through December and dropped to below average at the beginning of 2022 and remained low until the beginning of the spring melt in March. In mid-April water levels returned to below seasonal average and are currently below average.

Parks Canada met with Tay River and Christie Lake stakeholders prior to the beginning of the spring 2022 Freshet and kept us apprised of their plans to release water from the Bobs Lake Reservoir. Currently, Bobs Lake is at its targeted seasonal water level. Parks Canada monitors the water level gauge at Christie Lake and is well aware that water levels above 155 metres above sea level (ASL) represent flood level conditions on Christie Lake and are committed to try to maintain water levels below that.

The water level graphic on the CLA Website will be adjusted to reflect the fact that 155 metres ASL reflects flood conditions on Christie Lake. The adjustment is due to an historic calibration error and practical observations as to when flooding occurs.

On June 21, 2022 the Christie Lake Association will host Parks Canada and Friends of the Tay on a tour of Christie Lake that will include the head and the foot of the lake where the Tay River flows into and out of Christie Lake. We will endeavour to point out areas that are adversely affected by both high water and low water levels. There will be a presentation by Parks Canada for tour participants afterwards on the operation of the Bobs Lake Dam.

## ***Christie Lake Camp News:*** Natalie Benson

### **Christie Lake Kids are headed back to camp!**

Thank you to our dear friends on the lake for your love and support! We wanted to give you a quick update about heading back to Christie Lake Camp after our hiatus. Children and youth aged 8-13 are registering now for their camp experiences and we are working diligently to get all of our staff hired for the summer. Camp training begins on June 27<sup>th</sup> (so you will see at this time see the excited faces of young people set to welcome kids to camp). Session dates for the kids span from July 3<sup>rd</sup> up until August 14<sup>th</sup> with staff staying on for a few days afterwards for inventory and clean up.

We know, as our neighbours on the lake that you are fully aware of what the kids are looking forward to—venturing off on a first-ever bus ride, meeting new friends, daydreaming about s'mores.... There is so much awesomeness to take in: our beautiful shared lake, long docks, bunk beds and dining hall. This summer we will have a new multi-sport court, new canoes & kayaks and the same trees, flowers, walking trails and water—that we may take for granted summer after summer (but I highly doubt it). I guarantee you, these low-income kids embarking upon Christie Lake Camp for the first time (or the 10<sup>th</sup>) will love and respect this as their home for the duration of their session at camp.



We wish to thank you for everything you have done for us over the years and we appreciate all of your questions and comments and desire for our kids to be back on the lake this summer. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Matt, our Facilities Manager at: [mbreen@christielakekids.com](mailto:mbreen@christielakekids.com)



“We’re going on a bear hunt...”  
“Down by the bay, where watermelons grow...”  
“Take me home, country roads...”

These are just some of the sounds you will hear this summer when you are out on the lake in the evening (plus giggles and fun)! Thanks for caring about our kids who need it the most!

Want to know more about us?  
Visit us: [www.christielakekids.com](http://www.christielakekids.com)

## **Community Contribution:** Gordon Hill

### **Tay Valley Township Development Charges - an overview:**

If you own, or are about to acquire, a vacant building lot and wish to construct a permanent or seasonal residence in Tay Valley Township (“the Township”), you may be surprised to learn that you cannot obtain a building permit without first paying a Development Charge. The “Development Charge”, is a fee which is payable to the Township before a building permit will be issued. The fee is in addition to the building permit fee and any other fees and charges. Development charges are authorized by the Development Charges Act<sup>1</sup>, an Ontario statute. The Township’s current Development Charges By-law No. 2019-045<sup>2</sup> was passed on December 2, 2019 and was amended on November 16th, 2021 as By-law 2021-057<sup>3</sup>.

As of November 16, 2021, the development charge for a single or semi-detached dwelling is \$5,716, an increase of \$2,113 (58.65%) from the charges in the 2019 by-law. Lesser fees are payable in respect of apartments and multi-unit dwellings. Development charges relating to non-residential buildings are charged at the rate of \$2.65 per square foot of the gross floor area.

The good news is that a development charge is not payable with respect to:

- (1) the enlargement of an existing dwelling unit, the creation of certain “affordable” dwelling units, or structures ancillary to existing residential buildings<sup>4</sup> or
- (2) the demolition and replacement of an existing dwelling unit or non-residential building or structure, provided that the required demolition and building permits have been obtained and that the replacement buildings are not larger than the demolished buildings<sup>5</sup>

There may be other challenging hoops as well. Depending upon the location the building lot, the Township may require the applicant for a building permit to obtain, at the applicant’s expense, an environmental assessment report, a hydrogeological survey, or an upgraded (i.e. expensive) septic system designed to reduce phosphorus emissions. In some instances, the Township may require the applicant to enter into the Township’s Road Access Agreement.

Bottom Line: If you have or wish to acquire a vacant building lot, do not take any steps to develop or acquire it (do not drill a well, install a septic system, purchase a building package or materials, etc.) without first meeting the Township’s Planner to ascertain the restrictions and charges which apply to the lot. Be sure to ask for the Planner’s advice in writing.

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<sup>1</sup> S.O. 1997 c 27, as amended, a provincial statute which states, in s 2(1) “The council of a municipality may by by-law impose development charges against land to pay for increased capital cost required because of increased needs for Township services arising from the new development...”. Such increased capital costs may include road construction or rehabilitation, fire protection, parks and recreation, library, waste diversion and growth related studies.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/Modules/Bylaws/Bylaw/Download/7a424a67-9401-4aab-86a3-ebf3c9074d52>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/Modules/Bylaws/Bylaw/Download/0988a594-00b4-4e2c-8b59-e9b7e9211b38>

<sup>1</sup> Development Charges Act S.O. 1997 c 27, as amended, Section 2(3)

<sup>1</sup> Township By-law 2019-045 section 8.3 (not amended by By-law 2021-057)



**Membership & Directory Committee:** Penny Nault and Donna Walsh

The Christie Lake Association Inc. (CLA) Membership Drive is underway for 2022. Given the continued unusual times, we **will not** have canvassers going door to door during this campaign but hope to next year!



**Work has begun on a new 2022 Christie Lake Directory** (hard copy print). Please enroll/renew your membership to ensure that your information is up-to-date. Note that members now have the option to publish an email address with their listing. Each membership is entitled to one free Directory.

**Thank you** to those of you who have already enrolled/renewed your 2022 membership. For those of you that haven't yet, you can do so by visiting the Membership page on the CLA website at <https://christielakeassociation.com/about-cla/membership/> where you can enroll/renew on-line and pay the \$35 membership fee by credit card, PayPal or Interac e-transfer. Or, you can download and complete the Membership Form and mail it in together with a cheque for \$35.00 (or pay by Interac e-transfer). For your convenience, a copy of the 2022 membership form is provided **at the end** of this Newsletter.

Note that your membership dollars support many lake activities including social events, maintenance of website and email tools, newsletter printing, calendar printing, Directory printing, provision and maintenance of community book exchange boxes, maintenance of shoal marker buoys on main body of lake, maintenance of road signage and assistance with the construction of spawning beds, just to name a few.

**Communications & Website Committee:** Penny Nault

The Spotlight News email distribution list continues to grow – we now have approximately 370 subscribers. Thank you for the continued positive feedback in response to these News items. Unfortunately, there are still some people on the distribution list who have not renewed their membership in recent years so don't contribute to lake activities or the costs to maintain our communication tools. Most of the important information we communicate to members is available on the CLA website so I feel it is time to give these people one last chance (by way of a separate communication) to renew their membership or see the likely removal of their name from the distribution list.

CLA Website: **We have decided to give our website a new look and feel.** Ideas are currently being tossed around including the addition of a secure member-only login to access special content. To guide us, we will be asking members in the near future (in the form of a SHORT survey) what content you use or want to see.

**2023 Christie Lake Calendars:** Penny Nault

**We want your photos!** The 2022 calendars were a big hit so we are going to offer them again for 2023. Thank you again to all of those who submitted such beautiful photos last year. I personally found the calendar paper quality didn't stand up to the monthly turn-over and re-hanging (after ripping the hole, had to scotch tape both sides of the hole and poke a new hole) so we will improve on that! If you would like to contribute to the 2023 calendar, please submit your photos at any time (limit 2 per submission no larger than 5MB each) at <https://christielakeassociation.com/photo-gallery/photo-release-form/>

**Marker Buoys:** Donna Walsh

**MANY Thanks** to the Patterson Family, (**Ray, James and Apryle Patterson**) for placing and maintaining the shoal markers on the main body of the lake! These shoal markers are a beneficial safety measure to boaters. Note that CLA does not place shoal markers in bays.



**Boating – Safety and Etiquette:** Adam Sherman

- There is a general non-posted **speed limit of 10 km/h** within 30 meters from all shorelines in Ontario. An exemption applies for tow sports where the boat is driving **directly away from the shore**.
- Tow sports are restricted in period beginning one hour after sunset and ending at sunrise.
- Remember to have all of your [safety equipment](#) on board.
- Take a few minutes before the boating season to remind yourself of the “[Nautical Rules of the Road](#)”. As a general rule, sailboats, tow sports and canoes have the right-of-way over power-driven boats.
- Where possible, it is recommended that boats participating in tow sports drive a minimum of 200 meters from the shoreline.
- Boat drivers should be given consideration to “spread” their usage throughout the lake so as to cause minimal disruption to cottagers, anglers, docks and shorelines.
- Trying to avoid creating a wake that will disrupt other anchored boats or fishing boats.
- Sounds are amplified over water. Keep in mind the sound of your boat, music and voices across the lake. We’re not saying not to have a good time out on the water, but boaters should be make sure to be neighbourly especially in the morning or at night.
- The leading cause of boating accidents and deaths continues to be the alcohol and lack of a life jacket. Please boat and enjoy the lake responsibly.

**Well Water and Septic Health: Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit:**  
**Media Release - May 30, 2022**

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit can help you ensure that the well water you and your family drink is safe.

Spring is a good time to have your well water tested for bacteria. Run off from heavy rain may affect the safety of your drinking water. Bacteria in your well water may not affect the taste or smell of your water. Testing your well water is the only way to know for sure if your drinking water is safe to consume or if it is contaminated with bacteria and requires some actions to protect the health of your family. The Health Unit recommends that you test your well water at least three times a year.

A possible source of well water contamination is a malfunctioning sewage disposal system. Properly maintaining your sewage system can help prevent ground water contamination and keep your well water safe for drinking. With regular care and maintenance, a properly installed sewage system should provide many years of service. However, here are some tips and common household products that residents should avoid disposing into their septic to ensure a well-functioning system. They include:

- Fats, oils and grease;
- Household chemicals such as vehicle fluids, paints and solvents, caustic drain and harsh cleaners, bleach, pesticides;
- Cat box litter;
- Tampons, sanitary napkins, diapers, paper towels, condoms;
- Coffee grounds, egg shells and other kitchen waste;
- Excess water from roof drains, sump water, water from softeners and iron filters;
- Driving over the leaching bed with motorized vehicles should be avoided

Excessive water use in your home could impact your sewage disposal system by flushing solids from the septic tank into the leaching bed. Conserve water by spreading your laundry out over the week rather than doing several loads in one day; fix running toilets and leaking faucets and minimize the length of time in the shower.

The septic tank should be inspected at regular intervals and pumped out whenever sludge and scum occupy one-third of the working capacity of the tank. Septic tanks contain deadly gases and should only be inspected by firms specializing in this work.

The area over a leaching bed should have a good cover of grass allowing for adequate sunlight and ventilation to be maintained. Avoid planting shrubs and trees over this area.

Visit the [Well Water Sampling](#) section of our website for drinking water information including: where you can pick up and drop off your free water bottle samples; how to take a sample; how to disinfect your well (if required). For more information, call us at 1-800-660-5853 or [connect with us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter @LGLHealthUnit](#).

### ***Turtles Crossing:*** Donna Walsh



It's that time of year when turtles are crossing the road either to lay eggs or seek other habitats. Here's what you can do if you see one on the road-from Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary:

You can help a turtle across the road in the direction it is going.

Most Ontario turtle species can be carefully picked up with two hands and moved across the road. You can also use a board or shovel to coax it along. Never pick up a turtle by the tail, which could damage its spine.

Be careful helping a snapping turtle across the road – keep a safe distance from its head as it can reach past its midpoint if it feels threatened. You can identify a snapping turtle by the large black, olive or brown shells typically covered in algae. Their tails have “dinosaur-like” triangular crests along their length. Pictures of the three turtles native to the Ottawa region, including Snapping Turtles, can be seen from the link below.

You can coax a snapper across the road using a shovel or a board, or by allowing it to bite a long stick and pulling it across the road. If you must pick up a snapper by hand, grab the back of its shell with one hand, and slide your other hand underneath between its hind legs. Snappers are very strong and will squirm and thrash their hind legs, so hold on tightly. For video and photos of the three types of turtles go to:

<https://ontarioturtle.ca/get-involved/roads>

## ***Social Events are BACK- Mark your Calendars!***

### ***June 17<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back Wine and Cheese!***

6 PM – 8:30 PM Christie Lake Kids Camp Arts Building.

This is a BYOB event. We will provide the rest!

### ***July 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> Baseball and Community Corn Roast***

***Jordan's Bridge Picnic Area***

1:30 PM North Shore vs South Shore Slow Pitch Softball Game

3:00 PM Corn Roast and other activities!!!



### ***July 31<sup>st</sup> Community Fireworks!***

9:30 PM Fox Bay, North Shore





# ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE***

**Notification that the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members of the  
CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC. (“CLA”)**

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM -11:30 AM**

*at*

***TAY RIVER TENT & TRAILER PARK (REC. BLDG)***

Christie Lake North Shore Road

(about 1 km west of the intersection of Christie Lake Road / Althorpe Road)

***Hope to see you there***

Coffee, water and snacks provided

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 to: <https://christielakeassociation.com/contact-us/>

**Christie Lake Association Inc. (CLA)**  
**2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM & DIRECTORY UPDATE**  
Annual Membership Fee: **\$35 per VOTING Member**



Name of the one VOTING Member  
associated with this membership: \_\_\_\_\_

(Last)

(First)

1. **Family surname(s)** to be listed in the printed Christie Lake Directory (if you consent below):

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Names of all family members** aged 18 years or older to be listed in the printed Christie Lake Directory (if you consent below):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Lake Address:** Blue/White PIN # \_\_\_\_\_ Lane/Road \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Lake Phone #:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

6. **CLA Spotlight News Email Communications:**

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

**Email Address(es) to be included on the distribution list for CLA Spotlight News communications:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Christie Lake Directory (hard copy print):**

☐ I consent to the publication of the information contained in **items 1 to 4 above** in the printed Christie Lake Directory.

☐ I consent to the publication of **partial** information contained in **items 1 to 4 above** in the printed Christie Lake Directory.

**Do NOT publish:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not consent to the publication of any information contained in items 1 to 4 above in the printed Christie Lake Directory.

**New:** ☐ I consent to the publication of the **ONE email address** below in the printed Christie Lake Directory:

Email 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.*

**Method of Payment**

(payable to 'Christie Lake Association Inc.')

9. **Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Interac e-transfer. Send to ☐ Credit Card/Visa Debit/PayPal  
info@christielakeassociation.com (on-line form)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed hard copy form and cheque to:**

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: <https://christielakeassociation.com>