

Newsletter

Date 10/15/09

Volume 2-09

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

Special Interest:

**CLA Board of Directors
2009/2010**

Board President:

Steve Meinhardt

steve@casair.net

Vice President:

Bonnie Kanitz

kanitzb@msn.com

Secretary: Pam Tabor

pamdtabor@msn.com

Treasurer: Larry Fate

bogerfate@yahoo.com

Board of Director:

John Beck

Mike Dyer

Theron Guild

Bill Hepburn

Rena Ray

Bill Tomlin

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.crystalonline.org

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community itself.

Annual Meeting Appointments

The annual meeting of the Crystal Lake Association was held July 11, 2009 at the Crystal Sailing Club.

There were three Board member appointments expiring, Bill Tomlin, Larry Fate and Jon Jenkins. Jon Jenkins declined to run again. There was also an open seat due to a Jerry Stone's earlier resignation.

President Chris Mason

announced that he would like to retire after serving many years on the board.

Bill Tomlin and Larry Fate were re-elected to the Board. Newly elected members were Bill Hepburn, Bonnie Kanitz and Pam Tabor.

First order of business was to elect new officers. Steve Meinhardt was named President, with Bonnie Kanitz serving as

Vice President. Pam Tabor was named Secretary and Larry Fate continued as Treasurer.

Committee Members are as follows:

Fireworks - Mike Dyer

Membership – Larry Fate

Goose Relocation –

Theron Guild

Public Safety – Bill Tomlin

Water Quality – Bill Tomlin

Directory – Rena Ray

On-Line Forum by Bonnie Kanitz

The following links will allow you to bring ideas and concerns to your CLA Board, plus keep abreast of important current issues which could affect our beautiful lake! We are truly excited about this new communication tool. We invite you to register as a member, simply go to <http://www.crystalonline.org/forum/index.php?action=register>. Once registered, you will go straight into the forum, <http://www.crystalonline.org/forum/index.php> where

you can always log-on. Save it to your "Favorites" and visit often to keep abreast of news and current events around Crystal Lake.

I would like to welcome you to the CLA online forum. This is a place for members to communicate as a community. This is a place to post questions, comments, and even personal opinions. As with any forum, please abide by the posting rules. Personal attacks and bad language will be quickly

removed. Our goal is to utilize this technology to improve communication both from and to our members. It is with this information that our board will be able to better act in the best interest of our members.

Note: Your email address has been added to the CLA members. Periodic information will be sent via email to this user group. Please submit changes or unsubscribe requests to pamdtabor@msn.com

Welcome to New Members:

Lisa Allen
2490 Stanton Street

Brian & Barabara Buchner
487 Jean Street

Kristin Burcroff
2640 Lansing Street

Cheryl Cushing
2291 Cove Trail

Steve & Linda Ingles
290 Goodwin

David & Linda McCuen
2191 Straint Tow Blvd

Cheryl Morarty
493 Gary Street

Harry Wanke
2279 Caroline Drive

CLA Board Member Comments: President Steve Meinhardt

As I write this looking out over the lake I try to imagine if it's the same view that the original CLA President had back in 1932. I read through the original articles and try to take in the original principals the CLA was created for. After 77 years things change but the core values remain. It's back to basics for the CLA.

Not everyone knows all the things the CLA does. We pay for and monitor the police boat coverage, pay for and complete the Bill Willemin memorial

goose roundup, pay for and coordinate the fireworks which are shot off the CLA owned and maintained barges, review fish stocking, keep our members informed of local legal happenings, maintain an information website and new online forum. We send out newsletters and pay for water quality testing as well as completing basic water testing.

There are several new concerns on the list this year. Safety issues due to overcrowding on the lake. We have contacted the

DNR about manning the launch site which would limit outside boaters once 46 are put in. We have been active monitoring the road-end issues and have suggested possible resolutions. By far the number one concern of our membership is the proposed change to Township Ordinance 15A. The new online forum has rave reviews and is a place for everyone to communicate and express their opinions.

I am truly honored to be elected your CLA president and feel fortunate to have such an active board.

2009 Fireworks by Mike Dyer

The most visible project your CLA provides each year is the July 4th firework display. The feedback from this years' show was overwhelmingly positive.

We've been using the same display company, "Night Magic" for a number of years with consistently professional teams helping Crystal celebrate our nations' Independence Day. There are very few display companies that have the ability to fire a waterborne show such as ours. The budget for this years' show was \$8,500.

Our plan for the 2010 show is tentatively set for Sunday, July 4 at 10:30 pm. Historically, the CLA has consistently chosen to

provide the fireworks on July 4 regardless of what day it falls. We certainly are open to member thoughts and invite any comments from our membership.

Also, we are looking for donations for our fireworks "barge". You may not know that the fireworks are fired from a barge made of four pontoon boats that have been stripped bare to the frame then decked with treated plywood. As these boats are stored outside year round and take a considerable amount of stress for 20 minutes each July 4th, they require regular maintenance. If you or anyone you know has

any large scrap 3/4" pressure treated plywood and would be willing to donate it for the barge repairs your CLA would be most grateful. Or, if you or someone you know has an old 20 to 24 foot pontoon with good tubes and a solid frame, we are always looking to add to the barges. We certainly would be happy to haul it away for you.

If you have any question or comments regarding the July 4th fireworks, you can contact me or any CLA board member.

Remembering Members:

Eleanor Bird
2271 Cove Trail

Ted Blanchard
1241 North Shore

Genevieve Crispin
2011 Strait Tow

John Eggleston
2198 Strait Tow

Stan Gifford
2291 Cove Trail

Loretta Lane
2181 Strait Tow

George McPhail
2101 Strait Tow

Bill Willemin
720 North Shore

Township Ordinance 15 by Bonnie Kanitz

Get the word out!

Just say NO to changing Ordinance 15A. The changes being considered by the Crystal Township Board reverse anti-funneling controls and have the potential to create overcrowding on the lake *and* on the lot next door to you! Overuse of Crystal Lake can negatively impact property values as safety, health; sanitation and ecological quality of our lake take a downturn. .

A township hearing was held on August 13th and approximately 40 people were present to voice concerns and ask why the ordinance needed to be changed. The township gave the following reasons for the proposed change; 1) it is hard to understand or interpret the current ordinance as worded 2) Crystal Lake is primary

to the economic expansion of Crystal Township and increased traffic is desired to support local business, 3) The previous township board made exceptions outside the ordinance which could subject the current board to a lawsuit.

Seventeen people present at the meeting signed up to work with the township.

A meeting was held August 20th and again a very lively discussion on both sides ensued. .

The proposed change allows up to 7 parcels/lots access for each 50 feet of lakefront. This pro-funneling amendment reverses Ordinance 15A's intent to control future funneling developments. Most Michigan lakes are now covered by anti-funneling ordinance. To learn more, please go to www.miswa.org.

The CLA Board unanimously agrees to disagree with the township board. Several legal opinions and advice have been sought on action that the CLA can take.

A volunteer committee was established to develop a plan of action. Members are John Beck, Bill & Sharon Hepburn, Bonnie Kanitz, Pam Tabor, and Bill Tomlin. The committee will monitor regular township meetings and special meetings. Updates will be posted on www.crystalonline.org/forum

You are encouraged to write letters and request them to be read at special meetings or call township board members to voice your opinion. Contact names and information can be found at: <http://montcalm.org/crystal.asp>

**Get the word out:
Just say NO!**

Next Meeting:

Oct 21st 7pm

Crystal

Township Hall

2009 Goose Roundup by Theron Guild

The annual "Bill Willemin Goose Roundup" was held in a steady rain. Even with the rain the roundup went exceptionally well. We were able to relocate 36 of the 39 geese on Crystal Lake at that time.

We did some searching around to get the very best price possible from a DNR licensed goose man. By doing so we managed to save the Crystal Lake Association about 50% of the

monies spent in the past. The cost this year was \$300.00 – so we got a lot of bang for our buck.

I would like to thank all who helped on that miserable rainy day. Special thanks go to wrangles; Bill Tomlin, Larry Fate, Jack Warder, Bill McCabe and Lloyd George. Also, I would like to give a very special and heartfelt thank you to Tome Crites for his help in feeding them, as well as helping with the wrangling.

No ecoli was detected!

Summer Survey of Crystal Lake by Bill Tomlin

The summer lake water survey of Crystal Lake took place in July 2009. Stephen F Kasa, Lab Manager and Project Manager of Applied Analytical Labs, of Grand Rapids took the various samplings.

An extra sampling for Ecoli (fecal coliform bacteria) was taken at South Shore Campgrounds as a possible case of ecoli was reported. **No** fecal

coliform bacterium was detected. It was determined that the reported case was nonrelated.

The following tests were taken, Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen as well as Transparency in the central basin. Also evaluated were Nutrient data, Conductivity, pH data, Fecal Coliform, as well as identification of common Planktons.

The report was submitted

to the CLA with a discussion of a water quality analysis as were Stephen F Kasa's, Notes and Conclusions. According to Mr. Kasa, the final results of the Crystal Lake water quality testing summary, is the **"Crystal Lake remains very healthy during the sampling event and the analytical results confirm this."**

To read the complete testing results log on to www.crystalonline.org.

A safer answer to all the people traffic is to construct a Bike-Walk Path"

Bike-Walk Path Project

On a year-round basis many hundreds of adults and children like to go the 5 mile around the lake. All ages like to walk, bike, stroll, jog, run and rollerblade "round-the-lake". The roads on the East, North, and West sides of the lake have a 25 or 30 mph speed limit. So people traffic is relatively safe.

However on the South side of the travel route, the short stretch of Sidney Road has a hazardous 55 mph speed limit. Many efforts to get the speed limit lowered have failed.

A safer answer to all the people traffic on that part of the "round-the-lake tour" is to construct a Bike-Walk Path on the North side of Sidney road, well within the existing 66 foot road right of way.

The Montcalm County Road Commission estimates that the cost to build an 8 foot path along Sidney Road is \$25,000. Using the estimate at hand, the Crystal Township Board has set aside \$12,500 in a dedicated fund for this purpose. Another \$12,500 is needed in

donations. If you would be interested in making a donation or making a pledge to this project contact:

Bike-Walk Path Project
Crystal Township Hall,
414 South Main Street
Crystal, Michigan 48818

Or you can call:
Jeremiah Stone
989-763-6400