

CLA Mission

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.

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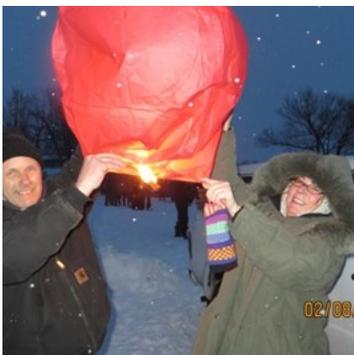
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Coming Events

Crystal Lake Fireworks
10:30 PM Friday
July 4, 2014

CLA Annual Meeting
Saturday July 19
10:00AM



Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

CLA Sponsored Polar Dip Raises \$2,285

Winter 2014 broke many records for snowfall and subzero temperatures! It was no different on Feb 8th, when the Winter Festival polar dip raised record funds for the Crystal Township Fire Department. This was the third year the Crystal Lake Association sponsored the polar dip warming tent. Fifty-four people braved the cold and jumped into freezing

thanks to Bonnie Kanitz, Mike Manning, Roxy Eaton, Steve Meinhardt, Kim Siburt, Michael O'Brien, Maureen O'Connor, Cindi & Phil Shaftner and friends for working the tent, providing supplies, and selling sky lanterns to offset costs. The fire department sawed through 19" of ice to open a large area for the dip and proceeded to train members in ice rescue. Many thanks to our



Brave dippers – Does holding your nose help??

waters all for a good cause. The ladies from the Crystal Café, who alone raised over \$1045 deserve special recognition. The CLA not only sponsors the tent, but provides hot beverages, cookies and chili in a warm tent for the dippers. Special

brave fire fighters and rescuers! Compliments were received on organization and execution of this event from all who attended. After a long day of festivities, the CLA Sky Lantern lift-off took place at the beach, It was a very cold, yet rewarding day benefiting the entire community.

Why We Need Montcalm County Sheriff's Deputies

By Michael O'Brien

About a year ago my sister was visiting me in Crystal. We decided to have lunch out and were heading east on M57 when an airborne deer suddenly struck the left front of her car. We're certain the deer had been hurled into my sister's car after being struck by a westbound vehicle: the impact was so abrupt and so violent that her car was

instantly disabled, so we called 911 for help. Deputy Sergeant Mike Williams of the Montcalm County Sheriff's Department was the gentleman who answered the call, and "gentleman" is exactly what Deputy Williams was, in every sense. He was very kind, called a tow truck for us, waited until it arrived and her car was secured, and did not hesitate to offer us a ride back to my

Board of Directors 2013 - 2014

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Roxy Eaton

Robin Pline

Mike Manning

Michael O'Brien

Bob Saukas

Fred Engle

Crystal Township News

Each month the township board meeting is attended by a CLA member. Issues currently affecting cottage owners are:

- CLA has offered to assist with funding a new public dock at the beach. We have forwarded information on state grants for public recreation to the township where 75% funds would be state money if grant is approved and 25% by CLA. The old dock is unusable and unsafe. A new dock would allow cottage owners to tie up and visit their favorite businesses in town.
- In the past, an additional forty hours per week coverage was provided by the Sheriff's department, funded by the Township. Due to limited funds additional police coverage was terminated for this past winter to cover June-September. A new proposed millage will be voted on the August ballot to generate funds for extra coverage for future summers.
- In the near future, the sewer billings will be accepting credit card payments.
- Sewer grinder repairs are on the rise. Apparently, "disposable wipes" are really NOT disposable! Everyone is requested not to flush disposable wipes down the toilet as the fibers are so strong they are binding up in the grinders. This is costly and other cities are experiencing the same problems. To reduce the cost of maintaining the sewer grinders, be conscious of what you flush.
- No news on the lawsuit against the township which caused the anti-funneling ordinance to be retracted. We will continue to monitor this topic closely.

For information on meetings, phone numbers and general information, please visit the Crystal Township website at: <http://www.montcalm.org/crystal.asp>.

Goose Round Up - Spring 2014

USDA will schedule the round up this year between and the end of June. We had great participation last year and can use your help again this year. If you would like to help please contact Fred Engle at 989-560-4857. We will let you know via the Association email when we get the firm date from the USDA.

Montcalm County Sheriff's Deputies

Continued from page 1

home. When we arrived, Mike got out of his vehicle, assisted us inside, then drove off, but before he did, I offered him a glass of iced tea; he declined, saying he had other calls to make, so I told him the offer was open anytime he wanted to stop by. A couple of weeks later, Mike did stop by, but not for tea: he stopped by to drop off my sister's gloves, which she had left in his vehicle the day he gave us a ride. We chatted for a short time. I refer to him as "Mike" not out of any disrespect, but because I feel my sister and I made a friend that day. Perhaps some will read this and say his was an unusual

level of kindness and service; that this is far too much to expect from law enforcement personnel. Perhaps. But I will argue that maybe we can expect this kind of service if kindness is at the heart of the interaction, if kindness is mutually demonstrated.

Deputy Sergeant Mike Williams is clearly a responsible and professional law enforcement officer, but he is also, at heart, a kind man who demonstrated that Crystal Township absolutely needs professional people like him. Law enforcement is often a thankless job, but my sister and I will never fail to thank him and all those like him for what they do, every day. Thank you, Mike.

First 50

Membership Renewals

receive a Crystal
Chamber of
Commerce

2014 calendar!

FACEBOOK

For quick, updated information on Crystal issues, events, or to post your favorite pictures or comments about the lake, go to <https://www.facebook.com/CrystalLakeAssociation> and hit "Like". You will be instantly informed of new postings and information!

2013 Water Quality Results

From mid- April to the end of September, water testing is accomplished weekly by volunteers. The CLA has been participating in the MiCORPS Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP). Results for all voluntary registered lakes (211) in Michigan can be seen by going to www.micorps.net.

Spring and Fall phosphorous tests results were both 8µg/l. This reading has remained the same for the past several years and is relatively good results. Keep up the good work on keeping phosphates out of the lake through best practices in keeping run off from occurring when washing cars, fertilizing lawns, etc. Phosphorus is one of several essential nutrients that algae need to grow and reproduce. For most lakes in Michigan, phosphorus is the most important nutrient, the limiting factor, for algae growth.

Secchi Disk (Transparency) tests resulted in 10' mean average for the season. Michigan average for tested lakes yielded a 12.7' mean average. Why is Crystal Lake less than the average for the state? Most likely the turbulence caused by the high amount of recreational boating. Large, high speed boats cause major turbulence stirring up sediment from the lake bottom, especially over shallow areas. We try to conduct this test mid-week to allow sediment to settle after busy weekends. It is a fine balance to have a recreational lake and keeping the quality of the lake for the future generations.

Monthly chlorophyll test results were 1.9µ/l, whereas the average for lakes test in Michigan was 5.0µ/l. Chlorophyll is the green photosynthetic pigment in the cells of plants. The amount of algae in a lake can be estimated by measuring the chlorophyll a concentration in the water. Crystal Lake results are very good.

In 2013 a concentrated search for invasive plants was begun. For 2014 CLA has enrolled Crystal lake in Aquatic Plant Mapping with a required field biologist field visit. Crystal is unquestionably one of the most weed free lakes around and we intend to continue to monitor and improve our monitoring to insure it stays that way. Some of the underwater vegetation is mistaken for weeds, however, macrophytes or rooted aquatic plants are a natural and essential part of the lake, just as grasses, shrubs and trees are a natural part of the land. Their roots are a fabric for holding sediments in place, reducing erosion and maintaining bottom stability. They provide habitat for fish, including structure for food organisms, nursery areas, foraging and predator avoidance. Waterfowl, shore birds and aquatic mammals use plants to forage on and within, and as nesting materials and cover. Though plants are important to the lake, overabundant plants can negatively affect fish populations, fishing and the recreational activities of property owners. Rooted plant populations increase in abundance as nutrient concentrations increase in the lake. As lakes become more eutrophic, rooted plant populations increase. Of utmost concern is invasive plant species which many of our surrounding lakes are experiencing. Please remind visitors to our lake to empty bilge water, ensure no pieces of plants are on boat motors or trailers when boats have been in another lake. It only takes a piece of an invasive plant species that may even appear to be dead, to infect the entire lake.

Anyone interested in assisting with lake testing, please contact Bonnie Kanitz, kanitzb@msn.com. We are always looking for volunteers to help keep our lake beautiful.

Simple Inspection Can Prevent Lake Contamination Check your boat before you launch!

Crystal Notes

- CLA General Membership Meeting is normally the Saturday after July 4th. Since the 4th falls on Friday, the CLA Board has decided to move the General Membership Meeting to Saturday, July 19th. Put this on your calendar and get updated on all activities and issues.
- Door Hangers will be put on all cottages around the lake in May with the most up-to-date summer events schedule and an a short informative listing of CLA activities which contribute to the quality of life and environment of Crystal Lake.
- New "Welcome to the Lake" flags are being purchased to promote pride in our Lake and the CLA.
- It's not too early to get family members enrolled into "Boater's Safety" courses.

Renew your 2014 membership by May 20th! Your membership cards and new 2014 Cottage Directory will be hand delivered over Memorial Weekend.

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

GO PAPERLESS!

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

2014 ANNUAL DUES (\$35.00) \$ _____

FIREWORKS DONATION \$ _____

LEGAL FUND DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association (CLA)

PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Renew online at: <http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818