

Crystal Lake Association
P.O. Box 307
Crystal, MI 48818

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CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

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

2020 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
Fireworks Donation (2020 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
Water Quality Fund (2020 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____

Mail To:
Crystal Lake Association (CLA)
PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Total \$ _____

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

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.

What's Inside?

Membership Form	cover
Membership	2,6
Water Quality	2
DNR Boat Launch	3
Township Items	3
Community Dock	4
Fireworks	5
Financial Report	5
CLA Board	6
Directory	6

Story Suggestion?

Email your ideas for future CLA newsletter topics to mcneilcheryl8@gmail.com

Advertising Sponsors Accepted

Would your business like to sponsor an upcoming issue? Sponsor fees help defray publication costs of the CLA Newsletters.

Contact roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

Membership Grows

CLA Membership Chair, Nancy Ayres

If you like hot, dry weather then surely, you are happy with this summer so far! As we head into the second half of 2020, we are happy to report 303 members and growing! THANK YOU, members, for supporting the work of the CLA. With this global pandemic we were uncertain what the membership response would be and are very heartened to see support of our much beloved Crystal Lake continue. (Cont'd page 6)

Water Quality – July 2020

CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick

We were pleased to hear that Restorative Lake Science's (RLS) first scan of Crystal Lake for invasive weeds found only a small area of Eurasian water milfoil near the DNR boat launch site. They initially suggested it would not be necessary to treat, but we chose to treat anyway. PLM completed treatment in early June.

The good news is that we have saved a considerable amount of money as a result of the reduced treatment this year. However, in late June/early July, several days of east winds washed up some milfoil on the west side of the lake. This indicates that monitoring and controlling invasive weeds must continue indefinitely.

You may recall the budget battle between the governor and legislature late last year which resulted in a veto of a billion dollars of budget items. One of the casualties was funding for monitoring lake chlorophyll and phosphorous. In past years we have taken water samples in the spring and late summer for phosphorous and monthly from May to September for chlorophyll. This sampling was suspended for 2020, but funding was restored for 2021. We have not heard if subsequent

budget cutbacks will occur as a result of COVID-19 revenue shortfalls.

I continue to measure water transparency with the Secchi disk and have seen much more algae in the water than last year. Perhaps you have noticed a green tint to the water (see photo page 4). This year I am seeing only 9.5 ft of clarity as opposed to 20+ ft last year. According to Dr. Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones, Water Resources Director and Certified Professional Watershed Manager with RLS, this is a "common state-wide occurrence...even on some of the most pristine lakes. It is due to the extreme heat and abundant sunlight we have received on the lakes this summer. Combine that with even modest nutrients in the water column and presto—algal blooms. Unfortunately, with it that widespread, treatment with copper will result in fish stress (they are already stressed with temps in the upper 80's) and the results would be very temporary. I know it is unpleasant to look at, but natural given the circumstances. If it continues to this extent, then other issues like septic, runoff, etc. may need to be thoroughly investigated. We could help with that if the need arises."

Specializing in Lakefront and Residential Properties



Fred Engle, Realtor
Cell 989-560-4857



If you are thinking of selling your home or buying one, please give me a call and we can schedule an appointment to talk.

Board Directors 2020-21

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton

Directors:

Tim Dorch
Eric Johnson
Joe Kopchick
Mike Manning
Cheryl McNeil
Kent Roth

Why CLA Membership?

- Water Quality
- Goose Roundup
- Fireworks
- Sheriff's Patrol
- Newsletters
- Township Meeting Attendance
- Lake Association Directory
- Community Support

Membership is easy:

visit website

crystalonline.org

or

mail form (cover)

or

call 616-901-3961

for pick-up!

Dues = \$45 per year
directly support your
Crystal lake!

Boat Launch Parking

CLA Newsletter Editor, Cheryl McNeil

An unusually high amount of boat traffic was observed by the marine patrol this 4th of July. Members at the July 11th CLA Annual Meeting asked that the CLA Board look into the DNR boat launch parking again, as it has for many years exceeded its capacity during the holiday weekend. Vehicles *with* trailers parked along the roadside in clear violation of posted signs, while some vehicles *without* trailers wrongfully occupied spots within the DNR parking lot. Marine Patrol Deputy John Russell explained that the Sheriff's Office can assign tickets for unlawful roadside parking, but it has no jurisdiction on DNR property.

Bonnie Kanitz on behalf of the CLA Board, has requested the DNR to add Crystal Lake to its Land Use Regulation 2.106 which prohibits "... a motorized vehicle without a trailer attached in any area other than a parking space designated as "parking for vehicles without trailers," between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on any Saturday, Sunday or holiday on any of the following state-owned

lands...' Lake Fenton, Orchard Lake, Union Lake, and Little Whitefish Lake (a much smaller lake than Crystal but also in Montcalm) are specifically mentioned. The CLA awaits the DNR's response.



Did you know that State Recreation Passports are required to launch at Crystal?

Prominent Township Items

CLA Township Meeting Rep, Tim Dorch

- **Marijuana Business Licensing** - The Crystal Township open season for retail marijuana business licenses ended July 20, 2020. It is unlikely that action will be taken by the board before the next regularly scheduled meeting Aug 12, 2020.
- **Park Redevelopment Project** continues in grant application phase. Township paperwork was submitted to the Michigan DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund by the April 1st deadline. There is no expectation that the township will hear anything until later this calendar year. The 2020 grant application was a new & improved version from the 2019 submission, which we believe missed approval by a narrow margin. Want to become a part of building the park? Visit <https://www.crystal-park.org>
- **Community Center** fate remains unknown. The Township is soliciting bids for roof repair which will be costly, but the condition is dire. Improvement options recommended late last year by the Community Center Committee have yet to be voted upon, though the Board did seriously consider asking for an improvement millage during the August 2020 election cycle, but abandoned due to timing concerns.
- **Township offices will remain closed** at least through the next regularly scheduled Township Board meeting on August 12th. Reopening in this COVID sensitive environment has multifaceted considerations.
- Crystal Fire Chief Mike Fitzpatrick reported that a formal 'use agreement' was signed between Crystal Fire and Montcalm County Sheriff Mike Williams for access to the **Marine Patrol Boat**, moored at the Crystal Sailing Club, for lake emergency response when available. Access and training are being worked out.
- **Anti-Keyholing** remains on the township's 'back burner' though last summer, the CLA requested the Township revisit the rescinded ordinance. Crystal is the only lake in Michigan to have, and later remove, an anti-keyholing ordinance.

Teamwork, Community Style

The CLA Board

The newly installed aluminum docks off the Crystal Park seawall come as a delight to many. The cost of the roll-in/out sections, which when assembled reach 90 ft into the lake, was shared by the Crystal Township Board, the Crystal Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Crystal Lake Association (CLA). As property of the Township, the docks are covered under the township's umbrella liability policy.

Resurrecting a community dock,

which would allow boaters to tie-up for a quick visit to downtown businesses, had been a goal since the old township dock went into disrepair many years ago. It was formally undertaken at the 2017 CLA Annual Meeting and at that time, concerns to be resolved were swimming safety, fundraising options, dock permanence versus seasonal installation/removal, entity responsibility for maintenance and liability, and permit requirements.

In June of this year, the DDA proposed a three-way partnership to purchase dock sections for the community. The CLA Board, believing from the July 2017 discussions that the membership was in favor of installing a public dock at the park, and having the fund balance to contribute toward this long standing goal, voted unanimously in support of donating one third of the total \$30,000 cost.



Though permanent bumpers are installed on the dock, boaters are encouraged to utilize their own bumper-fenders and ropes when tying-up to the dock.

Township Dock Rules

- **This Dock is for boaters' access to and from their boats only!**
- **2-hour time limit per boat.**
- **No overnight docking is allowed.**
- **Keep the dock walkway clear at all times.**
- **No stopping, standing, or sunbathing on the dock.**
- **No running, diving, or fishing on the dock.**
- **Do not swim at or near the dock.**



Photo credit: Jeremy Sheets, 07/25/2020

Gotta Love a Good July 4th Fireworks Show!

CLA Secretary, Roxy Eaton

As you enjoyed the 4th of July fireworks this year, did you wonder what happens behind the scenes?

The CLA owns four barges from which the powerful ordnances are launched. The barges take a beating. Long before being moved from Stone's Pontoon & Boat Storage on July 3rd, each pontoon tube must be drained and checked, repairs made to the barge decking, batteries for the barge's visibility lights charged, and a small outboard motor secured to the rear, center barge behind the shooter's shelter.

The safest place on the lake to prepare the ordnances is considered to be South Pier Landing and once the barges are in place, the park is closed to the public. Early on the 4th, CLA Fireworks Chairmen Mike Manning and Kent Roth arrange and hitch together the four barges in final preparation for the voyage to the center of the lake. Trident Pyrotechnics, the fireworks vendor, stays on site throughout the day tenderly loading mortar tube racks with shells and carefully wiring each to the launch equipment. Everything is checked and rechecked because safety comes 1st, a great show 2nd. At 9 pm, the barges are motored near the middle of the lake by Manning and Roth, escorted by the Sheriff's Marine Patrol who subsequently maintains a 500 ft safety perimeter around the anchored launch site.

Immediately after the show, the pyrotechnic crew 'clears' each tube of any unfired shells before Manning, Roth, and the Marine Patrol navigate the barges back in

darkness to South Pier Landing for unloading. Final clean-up of the barges and park occurs early the following morning, the barges are hauled back to Stone's, and the park is reopened to the public.

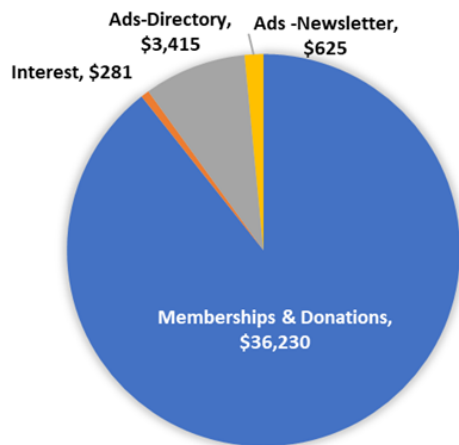
Orchestrating the fireworks show takes many dollars and many hours of time and coordination. We all owe a debt of gratitude to financial contributors, the Sheriff Marine Patrol, and especially Manning and Roth for giving so much of their time to benefit the whole, lake community.



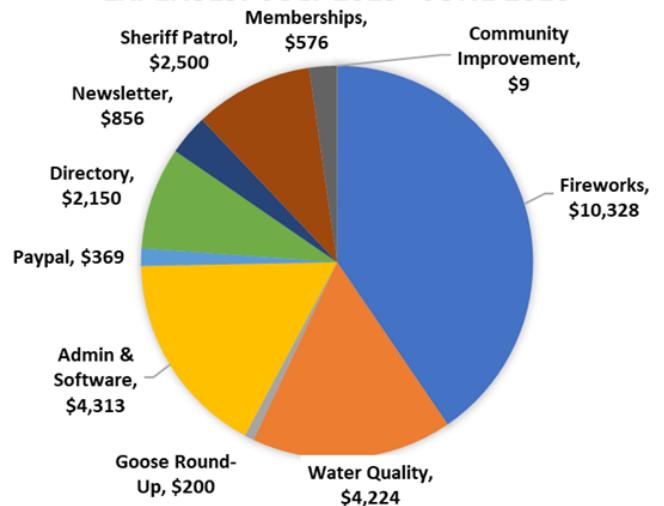
CLA Financial Report

CLA Treasurer, Kim Morgan

INCOME: JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020



EXPENSES: JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020



CLA Financial reports were distributed during the July 11th Annual Meeting. Total income was 98% of the 2018-19 fiscal year while expenses were 67%. Typical spring expenses were reduced as Goose Round-Up permits were cancelled by the State due to Covid-19 concerns and, more impactfully, there were less invasive weeds in the lake to be treated (reference *Water Quality*, page 2).

CLA Board for Coming Year

The Annual Meeting of the Crystal Lake Association was held on July 11th, outside of the Crystal Sailing Club, in compliance with state and local COVID-19 related guidelines. One point of business was to elect a board of directors for the new year. Four board seats were in play and each volunteer for the role was unanimously approved. Nancy Ayres, Tim Dorch, and Joe Kopchick agreed to serve again and Eric Johnson was nominated to replace retiring member, Fred Engle.

Eric has been a summer resident of Crystal his entire life and a permanent resident for four years. Now retired, he is a former teacher and was a business owner in Ithaca for 40 years. He now operates a business venture, *Johnson's Innovations*, with his son Jeremy. Eric is married to Linda, has another son, Ben, and a granddaughter, Luna.

The Board thanks Fred for his nine years of service, eight of which as Goose Round-Up Chairperson, and is happy that he wants to stay involved in the Goose Round-Up.



Back row: Joe Kopchick, Steve Meinhardt, Eric Johnson, Roxy Eaton, Mike Manning
Front row: Cheryl McNeil, Kent Roth, Tim Dorch, Nancy Ayres, (not shown, Kim Morgan)

Cottage Directory

CLA Directory Chair, Roxy Eaton

Perhaps you received your directory and noticed it looked a bit different? It was the pandemic. Work on the directory begins in January with solicitations to advertisers who in turn, have until April to return their ads and payments. When the March Executive order closed non-essential businesses and public gatherings, no one knew when businesses nor traditional community activities would resume. The directories go to press in early April to meet Memorial Weekend distribution goals.

In spite of money likely getting tight, our dedicated advertisers took leaps of faith and agreed to be in the directory. *Please check the directory for an advertiser to patronize whenever you seek a particular service; it is a great way to pay them back for their support.*

Also check ahead before planning to attend an event listed in the directory calendar. Dates were best-guesses due to COVID-19 uncertainties.

Lastly, let me know of corrections for next year's book. We utilize the sewer list for addresses and names listed in the directory but realize changes can occur.

Thank you, as always, for all your support of the CLA!

Membership Grows

(continued from page 2)

This year, we welcomed more than 16 new members while celebrating those who are members again. We continue to make gains within the South Shore Campground and have been encouraged by the number of requests for membership forms coming from there.

Remember what CLA membership supports:

- Water treatment of the lake, to help keep it clean & free of invasive species
- Goose Round-up in June, to help keep the lake clean and free from these somewhat aggressive birds (*not allowed by the state this year due to Covid -19*)
- Fireworks on July 4th
- Marine Patrol of the lake all summer for increased safety
- Member only directories & placards
- Community improvements
- Facebook page and newsletters, to stay up to date on lake happenings

Hope you have an enjoyable, safe summer and fall.