

Crystal Lake **Association**

Spring 2024 Newsletter





Photo by B. Kohn

Message from the President

Steve Meinhardt

Your CLA strives to be good stewards of your hard-earned funds you entrust with the CLA.

We consider spending funds from two buckets. 1: Annual costs and 2: Onetime costs.

If we exceed our annual expenses, then we are dipping into our savings, which is our one-time cost bucket. Short term that is okay, as we have planned for this, but long term it would just be poor fund management.

There are several sources of income: annual dues, earmarked donations, and directory advertising. In my first years on the CLA we used dues to make up for fireworks shortfall, but we have since changed that spending not to exceed the average earmarked fireworks funds. Other expenses such as goose roundup, police boat staffing, cost of newsletters, stipends, and water treatment overages all come out of dues. Water quality is an earmarked line item but currently donations alone are not nearly enough to cover the expenses.

For 2023 our annual expenses exceeded our annual income by \$2,729 unquestionably due to weed treatment. While we were able to cover it with savings, we need to consider our options going forward. The question we ask ourselves, is this a one-time event, or is it going to be an additional annual cost? A soft winter will lead to higher-than-normal weed treatment. With this in mind, we will need to monitor this expense closely going forward.

Currently we use RLS to scan the lake, PLM to weed treat the lake and the RLS to rescan to make sure our treatment plan and dollars were effective. If you look at surrounding lakes and what they have gone through, you will see our program put together many years ago

is second to none, so we'll consider any change to this program very cautiously.

Things to consider going forward...

1. Best solution, an increase in donations to the earmarked water quality line item when members renew their membership.

2. Jim, our water quality chairperson, will be looking at our options to consider other companies or one company that can both scan and treat, perhaps better, perhaps at a lower cost.

3. The consumer price index, as shown on your property taxes, has gone up by 5%. Perhaps we should consider raising our dues to keep in pace with inflation. The concern is raising dues might lower our membership number, which last year was at an all-time historical high.

4. Lastly, and what our membership has been adamantly against in the past is releasing control to a county run lake board consisting of several non-lake residents that would create a taxing district forcing everyone with lake frontage to fund the weed treatment. Several surrounding lakes had no choice but to go this route. We have been given the directive that as long as we can cover the costs ourselves, we are unquestionably doing the right thing.

It is the responsibility of the CLA board to represent the desire of the membership, so I encourage all of you to let a board member know your thoughts. I encourage you to show up at the annual CLA General Membership meeting on July 6th at the Sailing Club, at 10 am. as well.

Thanks for your support

Steven R. Meinhardt, President



Photo by B. Kohn

A new year, another chance to make a difference

Nancy Ayres, VP & Carl Jonas, Membership Chairs

Spring is in the air and most of us are anxious for the start of warmer weather, sunshine, and preparing for the summer season ahead. The CLA board has been meeting and making plans for the summer season as well. Our planning of course involves all of you, who we hope to have as CLA members this year to help us in our work to protect and enhance our beautiful Crystal Lake. Without our members, our work would be impossible to do.

Our membership goal for the year is 425 members, and that would be a new record. We surpassed 400 members last year, and we are striving to continue the growth in membership this year. The CLA always needs to raise money to complete the projects we have identified for the year, but increasing membership is important as well. More members of course means more money raised through dues paid, but it also means more people who are aware of the issues we face to keep Crystal Lake the beautiful lake we all cherish and enjoy.

Your dues, and other donations to specific funds such as water quality and fireworks, are essential. As with most things, the CLA's annual costs continue to increase every year. Last year was the first time in many years that our expenses were greater than the money raised through membership. Fortunately we had money in savings from previous years to cover the extra expenses, but that trend cannot continue. That's why the CLA Board works to increase membership and awareness of items important to the lake that need to be addressed.

You will hear a theme throughout the spring newsletter about our most important work – maintaining the water quality of the lake by treating for invasive weed species. Without battling these unwanted and deadly (to the lake) weeds, the quality of fishing, boating and swimming in the lake will diminish. So how can you help? If you are

a member, please renew your membership for 2024. If you are not a member, please join. ANYONE can become a member of the CLA. You do not need to be a property owner! If you use the lake at all for fishing, swimming or boating, we need your support!

We would also encourage members to consider additional donations to the water quality and fireworks funds. Over the years we have reached the point where the annual fireworks are paid for by donations to the fireworks fund. We need to get to that point with the water quality, and we have a ways to go. In 2023 we spent \$10,000 more on water quality than we raised from donations to the water quality fund. Our last ask of you is to spread the word of the work of the CLA. If you have friends and neighbors who are not members, please encourage them to join. As a reminder, below is a list of all that your dues and donations help to support:

Water Quality: Lake water testing and treatment for invasive weed species

Fireworks on July 4

Sheriff water patrol to maintain a safe lake

Goose maintenance

Facebook page

Newsletters

Township news

We thank you for your continued support, and we hope that you all have a safe and fun season on Crystal Lake. To enroll as a member either complete the form on the last page of this newsletter, or go to www.crystalonline.org to enroll on line.

Please help make a difference by joining the CLA!



Photo by B. Kohn

Water Quality - Critical and Expensive

Jlm Ayres, Water Quality Chair

Our most critical mission is to keep our lake clean and healthy for our members, residents, and visitors. This involves both water quality and invasive species control.

As we look forward to the 2024 summer season, we need to first look back to 2023. As you may know, we belong to the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring program with the Michigan Clean Water Corps. Through this program we take regular water samples for assessing phosphorus levels, chlorophyll levels, and clarity, all of which assess algae levels and lake health. We are pleased to report that our water quality remained consistent and healthy through last year. We will once again participate in this program in 2024.

Our biggest issue in 2023 was invasive species, specifically Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Milfoil, both of

which have the potential to kill our lake if not controlled. Last year, due in large part to the mild 2023 winter, we needed to do extra treatment for these invaders. As a result, we exceeded our \$13,434 budget, with a total cost of \$23,206. Unfortunately, due to yet another mild winter, we are expecting additional treatments once again. These treatments are not optional. The life of our lake is at stake.

You can count on our continued vigilance as we partner with certified water quality experts. But we need your help to fight this battle. The costs for treatment materials are rising, and consequently our costs for the treatments are also rising. These costs are not covered by membership fees alone. Please consider additional donations for water quality so we can continue to protect our lake. Thank you for your patronage.

Crystal Lake Fireworks!!!

Kent Roth, CLA Fireworks Chair

Chrysanthemum, Peony, Crossette and Color Wave - FIREWORKS! Just some of the shells that contain that explosive chemical that gives us light, color, sound and a variety of shapes.

At the turn of the century, Independence Day was a day of heartfelt patriotic revelry, a time when neighborhood porches were trimmed with streamers and flags. It was an era of cookouts, lawn games, a sense of pride and one of the most spectacular outdoor shows that lit our darkened skies. It was a glorious time indeed.

With the help of you, our members, the CLA is bringing back those glorious times with the planning of our 2024 July 4th firework show. As tradition, Fireworks will be shot Thursday, July 4th at 10:30 pm from our five barges in the center of Crystal Lake. Alternative weather back up evening will be Saturday July 6th at 10:30pm.

The CLA is also happy to continue our relationship with Jack Stutting of Trident Pyrotechnic Displays, Inc. and

his very professional and safety driven crew. Again, all this can't be done without the support of you, our members. When you renew your membership, I hope you can give a little extra for the most spectacular outdoor show on the lake. Let's make this a glorious time indeed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 18th - Household Hazardous Waste Collection - 9a-12noon - Mont. Co. Fair Grounds. Call 989-831-4212, ext 108 for information

Memorial Day Weekend - Membership Directory and Sign Distribution

July 4th - Fireworks-10:30pm (Rain Date July 6th)

July 6th - CLA General Membership Meeting Sailing Club, 10 am

As of this publication date, Music in the Park and other events - **TBD**



Photo by B. Kohn

Township News

Brad Wooton, Township Relations Chair

Trash Compactors

As last reported in our Fall newsletter, the trash compactors were a work in progress. Well the wait is over! The compactors are installed and are operating at full swing.

Things to know... the openings to insert recyclables are smaller, especially the cardboard compactor. It is for cardboard only and not other recyclables. The cardboard needs to be broken down before inserting into the compactor. The other compactor installed next to the cardboard recycler is for ordinary recyclables only. Some items may need to be squashed down before inserting because again, the size of the opening is small. It's all about material management and the efficient way it's compacted. I have personally used these units to recycle and was very impressed. The bins are very large and require less pickups from the service provider. The old system required 4 to 5 pickups per month for each of the 5 smaller containers. This new system reduces that down to 1 pickup per month per container. This was a much-needed improvement to our community and is proving to be successful. Let's keep the area clean and free of unnecessary debris or unfavorable recycling that "won't fit in"!!

Ice/Water rescue boat for Crystal Township Fire Department

The fire department has acquired a much-needed ice and water rescue boat. Our fire chief, Mike Fitzpatrick, was able to locate the ideal boat for our rescue needs and procure the \$20,500 needed to purchase it. Funds were appropriated through Crystal Township. It is air propelled and is compatible on ice and open water. This is a great investment for our lake and the surrounding areas that can potentially keep a rescue a "rescue" and not a recovery. Thanks, Mike, for keeping our safety a priority.

The New Park Project

If you've been traveling around Crystal Lake, it is obvious the impressive progress the park has taken on in the last few months due to mild weather conditions. The park and beach areas are visible from many angles of the lake and add a modern look to the shoreline. It is with great anticipation the additional beach access for people will bring positive results to our lake community. Interesting enough... during the initial start of excavation, there was an unforeseen development over where the excavated dirt would be taken. Originally it was to be taken to the compost site off Miner Rd., however just days before the digging was to begin, the county imposed frost laws on seasonal roads creating a mass change of plans! With all the environmental permits and approvals, the new site for dirt transport was designated to be behind the community center directly across the street from the park project. The engineering and township approval was completed quickly on how to achieve an ideal landscape for the estimated 16,000 yards of dirt to be moved. Turned out to be a win win! As far as the whole park project, the powers to be have indicated (and weather permitting) the park to be completed way ahead of

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Goose Maintenance Program

Eric Johnson, CLA Chair

Goose season is upon us. The lake is clear of ice and the geese are starting to reappear. We need to prepare for the upcoming "Goose Maintenance Season". Permit requests have been sent and we have received final approval and dates. Dates are as follows. The first "Nest Check" is the weekend of April 13, and the second the weekend of APRIL 27. No nests can be disturbed after May 9. Please start to scout the areas around your property and adjoining properties and report the location of any nesting couples you observe.

We have been informed that the "Goose Roundup" will not be allowed again this year due to Avian Flu concerns, so the Nest and Egg maintenance will be our only shot at controlling the number of geese on the lake. If all of the geese that were on the lake last year return as nesting pairs, we will have a huge population growth this year. Please take time to scout the areas around your property. When you locate a nesting pair, flag the nest location and if possible geolocate it so that our trained "Nest Maintenance Personnel" can properly monitor the nest and determine the appropriate way to take care of it. If you are not trained, please do not disturb the nest yourself. If you are interested in being trained, please contact me via email at the address below.

We will keep you up to date on our activities via the



CLA website (crystalonline.org) as well as the CLA Facebook page and "Crystal comes together" FB site. I will be contacting those who volunteered last year and provided contact information. You can also contact me for information or questions at: ejohnson@edzone.net Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Crystal Lake Township Park History

Jim Ayres, Water Quality Chair

It is exciting to see the renovation in progress at the township park on the East Bluff. It's hard to imagine now, but back in the 1920's and 1930's, the park was a bustling neighborhood for vacationers containing many buildings and attractions. The park was then known as "Silver's Park," "Silver's Grove" or just "the Grove." After the Silver family left, the Crystal Lake Development Company (CLDC) bought much of the land that is now the township park. At that time the old Silver family home on the hill and the Silver Theater in the north-east corner were the dominate features in the park. While the CLDC was building the Palladium in 1921, they also refurbished the Silver home and built a couple dozen small 22' by 22' cottages to the west, many of them along the bluff overlooking the lake. The Palladium opened to great success in June of 1921, and the new rooms and cottages for rent provided more options for vacationers to enjoy the lake, amusements, and entertainment in Crystal. Other attractions, such as Sherrard's pony rides, were also located around

the edges of the park.

All of that changed with a fire in 1938. Fire fighters managed to contain the fire to the CLDC cottages and eventually put it out. Fire officials speculated that a careless smoker dropped a cigarette butt or match into the dry leaves that had accumulated around and under the cottages. Luckily no one was injured, but eight cottages were completely destroyed and five others damaged.

A few years after the fire, in July of 1942, the Crystal Lake Development Co. sold their property in the grove to the Township of Crystal for \$1.00. Eventually, the old Silver family home and other buildings around the park were removed, leaving the beautiful open township park we have today. It's exciting that we can now witness the next chapter in the park's history!

Source: Greg Snyder, Crystal Township Historical Society; for further information see the CTHS Facebook page

Boater Safety Facts - Do You Know?

Age Restrictions

Those under 12 years of age: • May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) without restrictions. • May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp, if they are directly supervised onboard by a person at least 16 years of age. • May not legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp under any conditions. • May not legally operate a PWC.

- Those 12 to 15 years of age: • May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp without restrictions. • May legally operate a boat powered by a

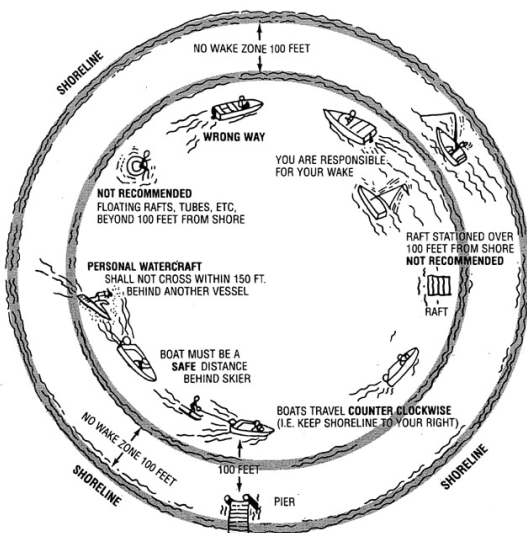
motor of more than 6 hp only if they have passed a boating safety course approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and have onboard their boating safety certificate or are accompanied onboard by a person at least 16 years of age.

- Those 16 years of age or older: • May operate any boat on the waters of Michigan.

Boater Safety Education Requirements

- Those 12 to 15 years of age may legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp, if they have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have onboard the boating safety certificate.

- Those 14 years of age or older born after December 31, 1978, may operate a personal watercraft (PWC) only if he or she has obtained a boating safety certificate. In addition to a basic boating safety course, new boaters should continue their education by taking a course that focuses on boat handling and operation. It is also important that boaters be aware that state boating safety laws are updated on an annual basis. Boaters are responsible for staying informed of any changes to state boating safety requirements.



Township News (continued)

schedule with a May 2nd completion date. This includes groomed top soil and grass seed in ALL areas and fresh sand lining the beach area. Originally the completion was to be for the beach area only by Memorial Day weekend and the rest of the park early June... hats off to the many hands involved in making this project a reality and for the diligent efforts needed to complete it.

Leaf clean up

We all recall the complications we had to deal with last fall regarding leaf pick up, **but on a more positive note...** It has been confirmed the leaf vacuum truck has been repaired and is running great!! Leaf pick up

is a tremendously difficult job for the person sucking the leaves. Just ask Sarah. One chunk of wood sucked up can ruin the day! It's a job that never ends until all the leaves are gone and this falls on the shoulders of 2 maybe 3 people if manpower is available. This year we are all hoping for a much more successful leaf pick up season. Volunteers are accepted to help, if necessary, you can contact the township for more information. Also... just an FYI, during the March township meeting, bagging our own leaves with paper bags was opened for discussion. It was quickly tabled. Stay tuned for more development on that.

Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors

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Township

Why CLA Membership?

Water Quality
Goose Roundup
Fireworks • Sheriff's Patrol
Newsletters
Twp. Meeting Attendance
Lake Association Directory
Community Support

Membership is Easy:

Visit our website at
crystalonline.org or mail the
form on the back page

Dues:

**Only \$45.00 per year
directly supports your
Crystal Lake.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
BECKY KOHN**
for providing photos
for this newsletter

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



CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Check here if you would like future correspondence via email: ☐

We now accept PayPal, Credit Cards or ACH

Pay to:

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2024 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Total

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

CRYSTAL LAKE ASSOCIATION