

Anstruther Lake Cottagers' Association Inc.

2018 Spring Newsletter

As I write the 2018 Newsletter, it is March 1st again and we start thinking about another season at the Cottage relaxing, swimming, fishing, boating, all the wonderful activities 'The Cottage' affords. Hopefully, you have had a good wintertime and are looking forward to Spring coming and Summer.

Water Testing – our Lake has been the benefactor of some very advanced water testing last summer through Trent University. Beyond what we normally do with testing for phosphorus, calcium, water clarity and e-coli Trent came on the Lake and tested for total dissolved nitrogen, chlorophyll, dissolved organic carbon, total suspended solids, ph, conductivity, light, temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles through the entire water column. Results were excellent. The plan is to continue this on an annual basis to archive the data to readily spot any change as we evolve with climate change. The Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (MOEC) also did extensive testing on Anstruther last summer to compare results from testing done in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2017. MOEC tested in May and September in each of those years in both the north and south ends of the Lake. We are waiting for their interpretation of the data. In addition we have been selected to help pilot a project funded through 'The Land Between – Blue Lakes Project' in the fall of this year and next. So, the ALCA is continuing to keep on top of our #1 resource – clean, clear, pristine water.

Septics & Shorelines – again, we continue to educate property owners on maintaining their Septic System. Septics over time leaching into the lake will overload phosphate and can cause toxic blue green algae. It is important to know where your septic is located, do a self-inspection (take the lids off and check for sludge content on the bottom with a stick ... check that the levels are equal at the in-take and out-take ... there are no cracks ... baffles are in place ... the scum on top is not too thick. From this self inspection you can probably conclude whether a professional inspection, and a pump out is required. Be careful what goes in your septic. Make sure you are using biodegradable/phosphate free products ... don't put bleach/chlorine, etc. into your septic that can neutralize the bacterial processes.

Septic Health and Shoreline Health go together. It is important to have a good 'Buffer' of natural growth (trees/shrubs) along the shoreline to absorb runoff

nutrients from rushing into the Lake. Lawns without buffer are referred to as 'Green Concrete' with shallow roots that allow runoff to speed into the water creating plant/weed growth and accelerating algae bloom. 75% of a Lake's shoreline being 'Natural' has become a Provincial Guideline. Hopefully, as Cottages built 30+ years ago are replaced with modern, larger 4 Season Homes close to the Lake a naturalized 'Buffer Zone' will remain. North Kawartha Township has a Zoning By-Law Amendment before Council at the time of writing to further regulate the size of structures 30 to 50' ... 50 to 70' ... and 70' + from the High Water Mark.

Public Access Parking Lot – the government access parking lot has been expanded to prevent overflow parking along the side of the entrance road on busy weekends. This parking area is to accommodate the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park campers, day users and lake property owners who have permits they use to accommodate parking to avoid Marina daily parking fees. In discussions with Park Superintendent, Paul Smith he mentioned that parking will be monitored. Once the lot is full there will be zero tolerance for parking along the road. Tickets and towing will occur. Also, if there is too much free, visitor use he will have to limit it so the camping community have sufficient space.

Municipal Election – Ontario will have a municipal election on Monday, October 22nd this year. We will keep you informed of candidates in North Kawartha. Anyone who might be interested in running for office can submit the proper application forms May 1st. Check with Connie Parent, the Township Clerk in Apsley.

Events -ALCA 2018 Regatta – Saturday, Aug. 4th & Sunday, Aug. 5th – A. Marina

ALCA 2018 Annual General Meeting – Monday, Aug. 6th – 10 a.m. A. Marina

2018 Corn & Wiener Roast – Saturday, Sept. 1st – 4:30 Anstruther Marina

I wish you a wonderful 2018 on our beautiful Lake. Please support the Association's work with your Membership. Thank-you to our hardworking Board, water testing ... keeping the light markers operating ... helping at the Regatta/Corn Roast and so-on. There is a lot of information on the ALCA website www.anstrutherlake.com and the NK Township website. Do not hesitate to contact me directly.

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