**Anstruther Lake Cottagers’ Association Inc. (ALCA)**

**2019 Spring Newsletter**

As I write the 2019 Newsletter I realize this will be my 63rd summer on Anstruther Lake. I was President of the ALCA for too many years to count in the 70’s through into the 90’s and then was asked back six years ago. The ALCA has been fortunate to have strong leadership in its Past Presidents and I like to think it does a pretty good job trying to advance the interests of ALL property owners. It is challenging at times but I would like to think we listen and become a strong messenger to the entities that influence our Lake. There are mainly three: Anstruther Marina, the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park and the Township of North Kawartha. I feel confident that your Board of Directors through the President has good communication lines with these groups.

**Anstruther Marina**: With a little over 50% of the Lake being “Water-Access” the Marina is a vital part of daily life. I have heard it said, “The ALCA does not represent water access cottagers sufficiently”. I have to refute that statement. I accompanied by other Board Members along with Paul Smith, Park Superintendant have sat down with Mark & Lee on several occasions in the time they have owned the Marina and communicated concerns that have been mentioned. The dialogue is always respectful and although we don’t always agree we continue to have that open door to express concerns. Anstruther Marina is a private business and we do not want to have that door closed. ALCA will continue its mandate to represent ALL property owners and communicate their concerns. Please, do not hesitate to contact me at any time (dougwellman@gmail.com).

**WACARA:** In June 2007 a letter was distributed to all property owners outlining that Reinhard & Donna had a possible offer on the Marina and it could become condo’s. There was a quick effort to organize property owners to buy the Marina but it didn’t really get-off-the-ground. At the same time WACARA (Water Access Cottagers on Anstruther/Rathbun Association Inc.) was formed. It was looking at getting (or taking over the LUP – Land Use Permit) from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and the docks/boat houses, etc. in preparation for the Marina closing. As the Marina was eventually sold to Mark & Lee and continues to function WACARA became rather dormant until now. Their vision appears to desire an ‘alternative’ to Anstruther Marina with their own parking lot and dock slips. So far, the Provincial Government is not interested in the environmental effect of clear cutting forest for a parking lot (it compromises the Park Management Plan protecting the ecological integrity in the Park), and setting up competition that could put the Marina out of business. Marinas everywhere are finding it challenging with shorter seasons and increasing costs. I do think the majority want Anstruther Marina to be there.

**Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park (KHPP)**: The new Provincial Government has moved Ontario Parks away from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry to the newly named Ministry of the Environment Conservation & Parks (MECP). Park Superintendant, Paul Smith connects through me with the ALCA almost on a weekly basis as he also has calls with concerns about activities on the Lake. The ‘Public Access Parking Lot’ which was expanded last year is already becoming crowded especially on long weekends and he is considering re-evaluating the ‘Parking Pass’ for Cottagers & their Guests. The ALCA has tried to get the Park to put a “Loading Dock” at the Public Access, but there is reluctance as that shoreline receives the highest wave action causing a possible safety hazard through dock movement, and it could again, overwhelm the parking lot’s capacity.

**The Township of North Kawartha**: the ALCA has been recognized by the new Council elected in November last year. Mayor, Carolyn Amyotte and Deputy Mayor, Jim Whelan along with their 3 Ward Councillors have included ALCA in Strategic Planning in January, 2019 Budget Discussions in February and Economic Development meetings in March. It is hoped that the Dock By-Law which was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board reaches a successful conclusion. However, this Municipal By-Law does not apply to Park Lakes as it comes under the jurisdiction of MECP and requires a ‘Work Permit’ from Kawartha Highlands Park Office (info line 613-332-3940 – 261). **The ALCA Website & Facebook**: Our Webmaster, Blair Reid does an excellent job in keeping the [www.anstrutherlake.com](http://www.anstrutherlake.com) website current. He is putting a “Subscribe” section on the site. You will get an email saying: “If you choose to subscribe, then you will also receive an invite to the “Members Only” section, where contact information will be shared. By ‘Subscribing’ and becoming a Members Only you are agreeing to information being shared AMONG ALCA MEMBERS ONLY. The purpose of all this is for Members to be able to look up fellow Cottagers and contact them for all kinds of things (social/buy-sell, etc.). So, if you are interested in this please go on the website and ‘Subscribe’. Further, ‘Anstruther Lake Cottagers’ Association has a Facebook page where you can become friends and exchange all kinds of information with your fellow Cottagers’ (check out Chandos Property Owners Association Facebook dialogue). Facebook dialogue may become the place where you will share contact info’ and connect.

**Summer 2019** will see continuation of all the ‘Water Testing’ that Bob Burgis does to make sure Anstruther Lake stays healthy. The ALCA partners with the ‘Lake Partner Program’ testing for phosphorus, calcium levels and water clarity run by MECP out of Dorset. We also partner with Dr. Paul Frost’s lab at Trent University with graduate students testing on the Lake dissolved oxygen (keep lake trout population healthy), carbon, nitrogen, conductivity, total suspended solids and so-on. Archiving this data moving forward will allow any significant change to be identified and its cause.

**Navigation Lights**: Thank-you to Mike Bates & his Team of volunteers that keep the lights working for night time navigation. Also, thanks to Board Members Ross Gray, Treasurer, Denyse Jeffrey-Janusc, Secretary, Carmela D’Andrea, Fiona Fisher and Paul Beamish, Past President.

The Lake Regatta will take place on August 3rd & 4th with the Awards and Annual General Meeting on August 5th.The Corn/Wiener Roast will be held on Saturday, August 31st.

**Membership**: Doug Murray works very hard on keeping our Membership renewed. **PLEASE**, continue to support the ALCA and its work by buying your 2019 Membership which includes your Membership in **FOCA** (Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations) and all the advantages you can have through FOCA (insurance, interesting articles) [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca). Also, the ALCA represents you as a member of the Coalition of Equitable Water Flow (**CEWF**) working with the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) to communicate reservoir lakes’ water levels. Collectively, it is a strong voice to the TSW.

Have a wonderful 2019 Season at the Lake. Be Safe!

Doug Wellman

President