

Anstruther Lake Cottagers' Association Inc. (ALCA)

2021 Spring Newsletter

Here we are, April 1st and it looks like an early ice-out. I hope everyone has survived Winter and is eagerly looking forward to another Summer at Anstruther. Your Executive has been busy keeping up with what's happening with North Kawartha Waste Management; Protecting against Invasive Species; Rebuilding of Sayers Independent Food Store in Apsley; Trends in Boating; Talking to MNRF about fish in Anstruther; MOECP concerning the KHPP Park; and so-on.

June 1st – NK Waste Management will be changing to **clear bags** for garbage at both the transfer station and curbside pick-up. Any items in the garbage that can be recycled will mean the garbage won't be allowed until the items are removed. NK is the last municipality in Peterborough County to move to clear bags.

Protecting against Invasive Species – we have been very fortunate on Anstruther to have avoided Eurasian Milfoil water plants (weeds) which seems to have become very common in Lakes around us. Chandos, Jacks, Big Cedar are dealing with it to the point they are investing significant dollars buying benthic mats to stop the spread and allow swimming off the dock. These invasive typically enter the lake through boats being launched from contaminated lakes without proper cleansing; shorelines that are no longer natural with no buffer of trees/plants/shrubs to absorb runoff; and, septic's that are malfunctioning. It is also important to be using cleaning/soap products that are phosphate/bleach/chlorine free around the cottage and not soaping up, bathing in the Lake. The ALCA is investigating a 'Dry-Clean' boat cleaning system for the Public Boat Launch.

Re-building Sayers – when Sayers Independent Food Store burned Dec. 5th and the Community needed help quickly finding solutions to help Seniors and others who were not as mobile get groceries, the ALCA donated \$500 in addition to the \$500 donated earlier to Apsley Community Care along with other Lake Associations to facilitate food delivery and transportation to Bancroft or Lakefield. The Sayers Family is now getting close to shovels-in-the-ground to re-build but it likely won't be ready for this summer. Cottagers will need to bring a supply with them. Discussion is on-going about having something available. Hunter's Store is trying to expand its supply of staples.

Trends in Boating – boats are bigger and faster along with Personal Water Craft (PWC's). It is important to respect shorelines with wakes and keeping away from boats towing water skiers, tubers and wake surfers. Concerns have been voiced about PWC's coming so close to these tow-wakes that should the person fall the PWC would run over them.

The Park – the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park (KHPP) is open to back-country camping and it already looks like it will be a record year as so many want to escape the confines of urban life with COVID and escape to the outdoors. Please be respectful of the many canoes that will be on the Lake passing them at a distance with little wake.

Fishing – we are concerned about the health of Lake Trout in Anstruther and are talking with MNRF about doing a study to determine the Lake Trout population.

Water Testing – we are very fortunate to have volunteers over the many years, beginning with the Charbonneau Family and continuing today with Bob Burgis that does the ‘Lake Partner Program’ through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (MOECP) testing for phosphorus, calcium and water clarity. Also, Bob tests 10 sites twice (July & August) for e-coli. He also works with Trent University’s Dr. Paul Frost Team with advanced water testing in early August. Our water quality is one of our greatest assets. We need to be on top of any changes that start to occur.

Navigation Lights – Mike Bates and his Team keep our light working all year. In 2019 Mike up-graded everything to the latest technology from the U.S. in LED lighting with batteries that last a very long time. It has provided a marked improvement in clarity making night time travel for watercraft and winter traffic safer.

Regatta & Corn/Wiener Roast – Unfortunately, with COVID Variants and continued social distancing we will not be able to run these events. Chris Johnston along with Carolyn Moss (Sailing) and Carmela D’Andrea (Grab Bags) has offered to continue ‘Regatta-from-a-Distance’ and the ‘Sailing Races’ that were popular in 2020.

ALCA Website & Social Media – Blair Reid continues to provide his expertise in keeping our website populated and some messaging on Twitter. The ALCA Website is a tremendous resource with information behind the ‘News’; ‘Articles-of-Interest’; and, ‘Resources’ Tabs. Also, ‘Anstruther Lake Facebook’ page is active on a daily basis with current issues on the Lake.

Connected with Others’ – the ALCA is connected through its membership with: FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Association) lobbying current Hydro proposal that will significantly increase our hydro rates; NORKLA (North Kawartha Lakes Association) sharing with the ten Lakes in NK Township (Stony to Eels); SGKH (Stakeholder Groups of the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park); KLSA (Kawartha Lakes Steward Association); NK Economic Development Co-operative; CEWF (Coalition of Equitable Water Flow) working with the TSW (Trent Severn Waterway) in managing water levels; dialogue with Mark & Lee at the Marina; Mayor Amyotte & Council; and MPP – Dave Smith.

In summary, PLEASE – Renew your ALCA Membership and if you are new to the Lake – Welcome – hopefully you will visit the website (www.anstrutherlake.com) and join. We need everyone’s support to continue the work on your behalf. Thank-you to the ALCA Executive Team for all their efforts and support.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any question or suggestion.

Have a wonderful Summer 2021. Be safe and stay healthy.

Doug Wellman, President

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