

CALA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Well the summer of 2016 is in the books. And what a glorious summer it was in terms of weather, spending time with our lake friends, taking some quiet downtime, and of course in terms of accomplishing several of our planned projects. It seems to me that even the bugs disappeared early this year.

So let's do a quick review of this summer past. Your CALA held a very successful Corn Roast hosted by the Temagami Boat Livery, and a great Family Poker Run featuring plenty of participation and tons of great prizes. We owe many thanks and much gratitude to Lil and Rene at TBL for hosting this event, and to CALA Directors Cindy Dougall and Greg Feys for their dedication and exceptional organizational efforts. New to the annual activity this year was a silent auction. It was a huge success! So look for a bigger and even better silent auction in 2017. This is the only significant fundraiser that CALA stages. So if you have something you can donate to the poker run prize table, or the silent auction, or you know someone who might, we would love to hear from you.

Your CALA Executive held their final meeting for 2016 on the Labour Day weekend. But our work of course continues all year long. We're looking forward to more water testing results from our new Water Quality Director Chris D'Aoust. With regards to forestry activity, as of a couple of weeks ago, there was still no word on whether or not the "Askin 81" block near Teacher's Bay would be cut this fall. Look for Forestry Director Dave Zimmerman's report in this newsletter for further updates on forestry activity on our lakes. Of special interest to all of us is the fact that the current 10 year plan for the Temagami Management Unit will expire in 2019. Typically these 10 year plans are nearly 1000 pages long and take upwards of two and a half years to write. CALA, as a stakeholder representing all residents on our lakes, will be invited to the first of many public consultations that will be held beginning this fall. We will watch carefully. Especially since the duties of writing the new prescription will be handed over from the MNRF to private interests. This type of downloading is now very typical throughout Ontario.

I want to take a moment to write about an emergency situation which occurred in Teacher's Bay back in early August. It ties nicely to a message I wrote earlier that referred to our need for peace and solitude on the lake versus our need for neighbours who make it a point to look out for each other. It is a delicate balance! One morning in early August, one of our bay residents was stricken with a terrible kidney stone attack. Of course this person had no idea it was kidney stones. Doubled over in pain, he hobbled over to his neighbour's place. They happened to be in at the time. The neighbours immediately offered to drive him to the hospital in North Bay. He declined as he felt he would not be able to withstand the excruciating pain during the trip, and he requested that they call 911. They did, but were fully aware that their cell phone service was sketchy at best. This was clearly going to be a test of the 911 service on the lake. They made the call successfully, but it was dropped shortly after it began. This resulted in the neighbour coming over to our place to use our newly installed "home phone" to make a second call to 911. The call went through without a problem. In the meantime, one of the operators at 911 called the original cell phone back and made contact. So in fact there were now two 911 calls in progress for the same emergency. Both calls gave the Blue Sign number, and the GPS coordinates of the access point at

the south end of Rabbit Lake as the emergency pickup point. Happily the process worked, and about 30 minutes later an ambulance arrived at the access point to transport the patient to the emergency ward at the North Bay Regional Health Centre. The patient has since fully recovered.

So there are several important things to recognize here. Firstly, how fortunate we are to have our tight knit little community on the lake that genuinely cares about each other's well-being. Secondly, although everything worked out in the end, it was a fairly uncertain process, largely due to the less than perfect cell phone network in many areas of our lake. Although the lake is clearly in transition with many younger people buying existing properties, there are still many (me included) who are gracefully aging. And many of those who are aging are of the old school who say, "We've lived here for many years without phone service, why should it change now?". The answer to that question is that now the technology that may save your life exists, and it is relatively simple to use and it is relatively inexpensive. I suppose that as the years pass, cell phone service will likely improve. But in the meantime, I can tell you that many service providers now have a very simple "black box" (modem) into which you can plug your home phone. The service is much like our old fashioned land line, simple to use, and is very reasonably priced...as in \$15 to \$20 per month. And you can shut it down for the winter months. Although this system still has brief sessions of "NO SERVICE", I would say it is at least 90% reliable. **However, even though it does operate on a rechargeable battery, it will have to be plugged into a 110 volt power source for recharging. For those of you on solar power, even a small solar system should have no problem running this modem.** Check with! your own service provider to see if they provide such equipment. Alternatively "cell phone booster" technology is improving. However I hear from many users that it is expensive and is still in many cases unreliable.

Secondly, I would suggest that every family develop a plan and know what to do in the event of an emergency. Post your residential blue sign number and your GPS coordinates clearly in a central location in your home or cottage, so you can readily give them to emergency personnel. If you are water access, also have the blue sign number and the GPS coordinates of the access point you will use during this emergency. It is unlikely that the Emergency Services will be able to come to you on the lake if you are water access only. The last thing you need is to try and find this information during the panic of an emergency.

So now, if you are like us, we begin preparing for the fall season, and Christmas, and will very soon start counting the number of sleeps until spring ice breakup in 2017. Look for information in this newsletter regarding a new event for 2017: the 2017 CALA Lakes Dock Sale. We are tentatively planning it for Saturday July 1, 2017 from 10 am to 4 pm. It will consist of you cleaning out your treasures, and setting up on your dock to sell these items; kind of lake a giant garage sale on the water. You will have some type of balloons etc on your dock so that people boating around the lake will know that you have something for sale. You will pay a small nominal fee for CALA to advertise your sale, but all of the profits you make will be yours. We're working on the details, but as always, we would appreciate any input you might have. We will need to know by early June if you wish to participate so that we can post something on our website, and/or send out an email blast to our membership advertising who is participating.

So let me wish all of you a peaceful remainder of the season if you are still on the lake, and/or a very Merry Christmas season. I wish you and yours good health and a very happy and prosperous 2017.

Cheers, Prez Peter