

## **CLPOA AGM 2021 - President's Report**

With all of turbulence we continue to face, and the public health restrictions put upon us, one might think my first ten months as CLPOA President would have been very quiet given the cancellation of our events. As a cottager on Chandos for almost 45 years, my CLPOA experience had centred on events, such as the annual Regatta and Corn & Wiener Roast. What I've learned over the last year is the amount of great work that happens behind the scenes and the efforts by so many who, like me, are passionate about life here at Chandos Lake.

For example, I now fully understand just how lucky we are to have a World Class Yearbook Team, headed by Edith Gorman with the support of Design & Layout expert Norma Nelson-Lomaro and other volunteers who donate their creativity who, year over year, publish a first-rate magazine that captures all of the year's highlights on the lake. This wonderful keepsake provides us with endless memories that we can look back on for years to come. And it is just awesome that a photo contest determines the magazine's cover each year. Thanks to Tom Knight for his work sorting and organizing more than 1,300 photos submitted!

The board, even prior to me joining, has and continues to work to improve our corporate governance. This initiative was spearheaded by Brigette Walenius, our VP & Secretary, and recently bolstered by new board member Catherine Moroz who specializes in corporate governance in her day job. These two board members have gone above and beyond to improve our AGM, update CLPOA's corporate filings with the Ontario government, and significantly improve our process for operating more efficient board meetings. I would like to thank them both for their endless hours of effort bringing the CLPOA's governance to where it needs to be.

I have also witnessed the tireless work of the Constitutional Review Committee. As you know from the constitutional amendment questions sent to members, the committee is reviewing the CLPOA Constitution (letters patent and by-laws) to align with current legislation and the CLPOA's corporate governance practices. This is a Herculean task that will certainly benefit us for years to come. I would like to again thank Brigette, along with VP Membership Lyn Turnbull, board member Dave Taillefer and association member Geoff Anderson for all their time, energy, and dedication towards this important initiative.

An ongoing focus of the CLPOA is the health and welfare of our greatest asset and that's the lake itself. Our Environmental Committee, led by Alex Haney and Debra Anthony, is laser-focused and passionate about protecting the lake and our natural environment. Whether it is managing the Eurasian Watermilfoil Project or investigating potential risks from other invasive species such as Starry Stonewort, this committee continues to be at the top of their game. I assure you they will continue to press the board to discuss and review all risks, even including the more controversial topics like damage to the lake from things such as boat launches and fireworks. Trust me, no one enjoys fireworks more than me, but we do have a responsibility to protect our lake. This committee remains committed to staying aware of any and all factors that may affect or cause potential damage to Chandos and our surroundings for years to come.

Last summer was challenging for our event Committee Chairs given the forced cancellation of events. As for this summer, we are monitoring the public health situation, with the safety of our members and their guests being our top priority. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight and thank all event

chairs, including Regatta Committee Chair Alana Langlois, Corn & Weiner Roast Committee Chair and Board Member Kathy Robichaud, Kids' Fishing Derby Committee Chair and Board Member Jim Franks and Fireworks Committee Chair and Board Member Eugene Telka for their continual leadership and dedication. Also, thanks to Iain Gorman for the Canoe/Kayak event to mark World Environment Day and to Nancy Cable for the Chandos Swim Challenge. I also want to thank the many volunteers I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet due to public health restrictions. Our lake would not be the same without all of you helping out.

The restrictions introduced earlier this year also affected the delivery of our Lake Marker Program in that the normal team of volunteers could not go out together in the CLPOA pontoon boat to install and remove markers. The board instead hired an outside provider to do the work. Under the supervision of Board Member Dave Taillefer, we were able to successfully install the markers, despite the pandemic. I want to thank members who provided feedback, helping us to correct the location of some markers. And we all owe gratitude to Dave for his tireless work, ensuring safer boating for all on Chandos Lake.

Dave is also head of our Planning Committee and has instituted a new process to review Municipal Variance Requests prior to presenting them to the board. The process was introduced earlier this year and respects the mandate given to the board by the membership.

The CLPOA cannot operate without good financial management. Our Finance Committee, headed by our VP Treasurer Debbie Kirton and supported by new board member Barry McMillan, has been doing an outstanding job. This year has by no means been an easy year to budget or forecast. Even the simplest things like signing cheques or communicating with the bank have been a challenge, yet Debbie and Barry have risen to the task. I want to thank both for their efforts, as well as Julie Smith our third member of the Finance Committee, who kindly donates her accounting expertise and time to the CLPOA.

The CLPOA also cannot operate without communications with and among our members. I think you will all agree that communication have never been better, and we can thank board member Craig Morrison for that. Our Facebook group has an astonishing 2700 members and CLPOA monthly news-letters are being opened at a rate of between 70-90%! Craig is even running periodic surveys of members. In a year of uncertainty, Craig has done a stellar job, allowing all of us to feel up to date, regardless of the circumstances. And many thanks to Iain Gorman who continues to support Craig on many fronts.

As I have described above, the efforts of many individuals provide enormous benefits to our members and we are pleased that our membership numbers remain good. In this regard, we are blessed that Membership Chair Duncan Turnbull and VP Membership Lyn Turnbull promote the CLPOA membership and manage the intake of new members. And they do a great job! In 2020, we had 656 paid up members, which is about 54% of cottages on the lake. While this is good, we all agree we could improve this percentage. Duncan and Lyn would suggest that if every member reached out to their neighbours who are not currently members, there is an opportunity for us to improve this number. For example, if someone new moves in near you, talk to them about the CLPOA and give them the CLPOA website ([www.clpoa.ca](http://www.clpoa.ca)) and/or email address: [info@clpoa.ca](mailto:info@clpoa.ca). Please help spread the word of all the good work being done by your association!

I also would like to extend thanks to Immediate Past President David Cooper for his advice and guidance over the past year. His experience and input, along with all the support I have received from our current board, has made my first year a wonderful and interesting learning experience and a very enjoyable one at that.

In addition, I must thank David Shaw for all his outstanding fundraising efforts throughout the year especially on our yearbook. His efforts and those of Jim Franks raising funds for the Kids' Fishing Derby allow us to continuously "raise the bar" for our events.

Finally, much gratitude and appreciation is owed to our local businesses including our marina sponsors that support our association and all our events year in and year out. I have learned very quickly they all play a very important role in allowing us to provide the many services and events we do. A special thanks and best wishes go out to the Sayers Family as they rebuild their business this year. They represent everything that is good about our community and they know they have our support as they bounce back from this challenging event.

In closing, I hope I have provided a bit of insight into what goes on at the CLPOA behind the scenes; as I have learned, it is far more than the great events we all enjoy. If you have an interest in helping by volunteering or potentially running for a future board position, please feel free to reach out to me. As a board, we feel very strongly about board renewal; that a healthy board requires new people who continuously bringing new energy and new ideas to the table.

Please stay safe and be well,

Alan