

CLPOA AGM 2022 - President's Report

As I come to the end of my two-year term, I am reflecting on the many things I've learned and like you missed out on over the last two years. Despite the fact I have only attended one CLPOA sanctioned lake event (that was the Chandos Lake Sailing Club Awards day) I feel the tasks and work that have been accomplished this year by your association has never been more important.

When this board first came together two years ago, we felt very strongly that it was essential for us to ensure that you our members, know we are here to support you and your experience as a resident on the lake. It's been a mandate from our first day as a new board to change the approach of the association to become more inviting and inclusive while promoting our role as educators and a resource centre for you, our members. This led to the formation of our new Education Committee that launched our first webinar last fall our succession planning. Kathy Verduyn a new Director lead this successful initiative that was attended by well over 300 members to rave reviews. Thank you, Kathy! Another great example of our new mandate was our involvement with the Minor variance and Zoning Amendment process that many of you may have or will use in the future. We've committed to ensuring that we only get involved where our constitution directs us to do so and not because of personal opinions from board members. This has resulted (as Dave Taillefer will report in his Secretary Report) to us having no conflicts with our members over the last two years. We've also committed to engaging the members with any of our concerns prior to them learning about it at council meetings. This is in no way a reduced commitment to the environment, just a more cooperative and non-combative approach with our members. We are also now looking at ways to help educate members who are considering building improvements on how and what is required to begin the process while protecting the environment. Watch out for that as a possible follow up webinar this summer.

Our events that we all enjoy so much, were once again a victim of the pandemic last summer. That said, we are very encouraged with the improvements of late and expect to be hosting them again this summer. Some of the Chair positions for the events are going through a transfer of leadership but very much in Chandos fashion all of the previous Chairs have graciously offered to support the new Chairs with their guidance and experience. I look forward to meeting many of you at these events this summer. We have also had several discussions about extending our events in the winter months and have already initiated discussions with several groups and individuals. Stay tuned for more on that later in the year.

I need to mention and thank many individuals and groups that support our association every year. Edith Gorman leads a very talented Yearbook committee that includes our Design & Layout expert Norma Nelson-Lomaro. They provide us with a great keepsake, full of memories for years to come. With the cancellation of events the past two years, their job has become even more difficult than ever to get those great pictures, but they seem to do it regardless of the current environment. Special thanks also must go to Mr David Shaw for all his fundraising efforts and advertising sales that allows us to fund our yearbook and many other events year after year.

The largest and most significant accomplishment for the board this year is the proposed acquisition of the new Boat Cleaning Station. It is on track and to be installed at the boat launch off Hwy 620 next to the public beach. This is an initiative that our talented Environmental Committee began more than a year ago. With invasive species threatening all lakes it's important for us to be proactive in this fight to help prevent or at least limit them from entering our lake. Led by Alex Haney and Debra Anthony our committee thoroughly researched all available products throughout North America and along with the

other members of the committee recommended the proposed solution to the board last fall. We proactively engaged North Kawartha Council in our discussions which has resulted in a very collaborative outcome. I'm pleased to say we are in the late stages of finalizing this acquisition. We look forward to reviewing the complete project with you at the upcoming AGM. A special thanks needs to go to Barry McMillan for all his effort meeting with township administrators to ensure we stay on track and work together on this very important project.

As you can see, we have a lot on the go, but none of these would be possible without our member's support. Our membership numbers are slightly ahead of last year's pace at this time with 587 memberships paid to date. Our 2021 enrolled membership was 678 or slightly over 56% of our residences. I feel we can do better, so here's my one "ask of you". Please go to your neighbors on each side of you and inform them of the work done every year and the work that still needs to be done to ensure we keep our lake safe, clean and the place we all want it to be. If they haven't joined, please direct them to our website www.clpoa.ca and ask them to consider joining. The safety of having the markers installed every year alone is worth the cost. It quite possibly might be the best \$50 investment they make all year. I can't speak about memberships and not THANK our Membership Chair Duncan Turnbull and VP Membership & Board Member Lyn Turnbull for all their work managing and promoting the intake of new members every year.

There are many other roles that are critical to the success of our associations. Our outstanding Communication Committee is the most talented group of 1 I've had the chance to work with. Craig Morrison produces all our e-Newsletters, periodic surveys, manages our website and much, much more. Dave Taillefer, our Secretary and Chair of the Planning Committee also leads a dedicated team that puts the lake markers in and out each year. The term MVP doesn't provide justice to the amount of work Dave commits to the association every year. Debbie Kirton with the support of Julie Smith continues to ensure our finances are well looked after year after year. Alex Haney along with Debra Anthony Co-Chaired the highly active Environmental Committee who are continuously looking after our most important asset. I want to thank all the Directors, Committee Chairs and hundreds of volunteers that work behind the scenes to make sure all our initiatives and events are successful. I also want to thank Iain Gorman for the Canoe/Kayak event to mark World Environment Day and to Nancy Cable for the Chandos Swim Challenge. You both are terrific at what you do. Finally, a special shout out to Paul Walkovich who Chairs the Chandos Lake Sailing Club. He has led and supported this enthusiastic group of 30+ sailors, who for 40 years have competed vigorously in over 5 races a year against good friends for the honour of winning the President's Trophy.

Finally, I want to offer a very special Thank You to the members stepping down this year. Board renewal is important with every successful association but what's even more important is to look back at the body of work these members leave behind. We are saying goodbye to three dedicated board members and respected Chairs this year.

Alex Haney, our Chair of the Environmental Committee, and board member for the past 5 years has been a constant voice in ensuring our lake remains the body of water it is today. He championed many research projects over his tenure as well as the recent Mat Program and Boat Cleaning Station. His efforts will have an impact for years to come and he deserves our utmost respect and appreciation.

True leaders don't just manage they create. Eugene Telka our Chair of the Fireworks Committee and board member for 5 years did just that with the brilliant fireworks display we have all enjoyed on the

Civic long weekend. Eugene has graciously offered to help coach the next Fireworks Chair this year. Thank you, Eugene, for creating such a wonderful event.

If time is a measurement of dedication, Kathy Robichaud stands in a league of her own. For over 25 years she has generously donated her time as the Chair of Corn & Weiner Roast, Deputy Chair of the Regatta and Board member. She also has helped organize the food for the Kid's Fishing Derby and Regatta year after year. Her endless effort, positive attitude and attention to detail has guaranteed every event she hosted was going to be a success. Kathy, you have created years and years of great memories for all of us and for that we will be forever grateful.

I must also mention Jim Franks who stepped down last year after my 2021 Report. Jim was a part of the board for 4 years. His role as Kid's Fishing Derby Chairman was unmatched when it comes to getting the local sponsors, the local community, and cottagers together for a truly unique life experience. In addition to his work Leading the Fishing Derby he was also a great contributor to the board and brought a balanced approach to all the issues we dealt with throughout the years.

On behalf of all the members, I want to THANK all of you for your commitment, support, and effort. You have all left us way better off than when you joined, and we owe you all a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Lastly, much appreciation is owed to our local businesses including our marina sponsors that support our association and all our events year in and year out. They were all ready to support us when and if we needed through the past two years. They all play such a very important role in allowing us to provide the many services and events we do.

In closing, I hope this summer returns the events we love and look forward to. As a board, we feel very strongly about board renewal; that a healthy board requires new people who continuously bring new energy and new ideas to the table with new leadership where possible. It's been a pleasure to be your President for the past two years and I look forward to seeing the exciting new initiative and relationship with our members evolve for years to come.

Please stay well and see you on the lake soon!!

Alan