

## CLPOA President's Report to Members - 2023

I am Dave Taillefer, your current CLPOA President, and I am delighted to share a few reflections and updates with you.

While growing up in Peterborough, I had only been exposed to the cottage lifestyle through the occasional invite from a school or family friend, however those memories stuck with me, and I always had a goal that I would own a cottage one day. This goal led to fruition in 1999, when I, my sister and our parents bought a family cottage. From that day forth I fell in love with the lake. Chandos Lake has become an integral part of my life, vying for attention with my family. While my wife and kids hold the top spots, the lake's magic often challenges that order.

While I do believe that the love of Chandos is a shared attribute of all members, I also believe that lake life, and owning a shared cottage has taught me some valuable life lessons.

After our first year on the lake, we decided to purchase our first motorboat. Being a new boater I learned very quickly (within the first day) that if one is not familiar with the lake, one should wait till the hazard buoys are placed before launching your boat. Later I learned that once they are placed, one should remain a safe distance away. These were two different expensive lessons to learn, but valuable ones and stories that I pass onto my kids so that hopefully they don't have to learn from experience as I did. I also came to love the camaraderie of the boating community, whether it be helping an inexperienced boater with docking at the marina, or with everyone waving to each and every boater that passes. Although I did also learn that when the people on docks are waving at me with only one finger, or have a scowl on their face, it may be best to not only look in front of the boat, but equally important to look behind and be aware of the wake you may be leaving. I am glad to share that in the 20+ years since, I have become a much better boater.

When we first came to the lake, I had a beloved dog that was very sensitive and afraid of fireworks. Equally, I had a family member who loved nothing more than hearing the thunderous boom and the watching the sparkles every weekend. Understanding the other's perspective, communicating, and coming to a compromise was important, which included both limiting the usage of fireworks, and compromising on when we would be there and/or when they would be lit. When the CLPOA, in 2017, decided to start having a large firework show on Civic Long Weekend, this furthered the compromise, as no longer was it felt necessary to light off individual fireworks, but rather it was preferable to wait for the big show. I have also noticed fewer and fewer individual fireworks present on the lake, with the community all enjoying the spectacular event hosted by the CLPOA.

Nights around the campfire is soothing for the soul, a time to refresh, a time for laughter and all around a wonderful way to spend an evening. That is why the fire-ban throughout the province in the summer of 2023 was so difficult for many, and taught us that being conscious of fire safety should be paramount for all. Cottage life for me equates into bonfires. While great for socialization one does also have to be aware that sound does travel long distance over water (on that note, to the people on the other side of the lake... The sounds of your campfire sing-alongs, though appreciated, could perhaps diversify beyond only the familiar choruses of "Sweet Caroline" and "American Pie.")

Waking up by jumping in the lake, cooling down after an afternoon of chores (or drinks on the dock), or having one final dip before bedtime... no matter if you wade in, or jump in with reckless abandon, the lake seems magical in its powers to heal, reinvigorate, calm, or energize. There's just something about being on or in the lake that makes you appreciate just how lucky we are to be in such a beautiful place. Appreciate the lake and the environment while we still have it, and do everything we can to protect it.

Our community thrives on fun and family events, such as the Kids Fishing Derby, the Regatta on Civic Long Weekend, the Corn and Weiner Roast, the Fireworks on Civic Long Weekend, Canoe and Kayak Day, and the Chandos Lake Sailing Club races led by dedicated individuals like Lynne Moore, UE Kosar, Shantelle Bisson, Derek Hull, Iain Gorman, and Paul Walkovich, with many of these events hosted by our Marina Partners, Lakeview Marina, Gilmour Bay Marina, & Shantilly's Place. There are few things in life that can trump the laughter of children, the awe of fireworks, the peacefulness of a paddle on a quiet lake, or the competitive spirit of a race against friends. We welcome everyone to be a part of some or all of the events and activities the CLPOA can offer.

I would be remiss to not to express deep gratitude to retiring board members Alan Bird, who stood as President of the CLPOA prior to me, and most recently completed his one year term as Past-President, thank you for all of your insight and advice. I have always greatly appreciated being able to rely on your knowledge and fair viewpoints. Lyn Turnbull, as our VP-Membership, you have done a wonderful job as an executive member, assisted with any project or question that has arisen. Craig Morrison who lead our communication team. We've all received the thoughtful newsletters and emails from Craig who was our primary link to the valuable insight and thoughts brought forth from our members. Tania Rightmyer, who assisted with the Fireworks and Fishing Derby, as the board liaison, and was thoughtful in her comments and suggestions and always willing to lend a hand, or offer her perspective on issues. And finally, a huge thank you goes out for all of the years of hard work that our Edith Gorman has put into the CLPOA yearbook. This publication has grown with not only the quantity of pictures, but the overall quality under her guidance. Thankfully we have already secured some enthusiastic volunteers who are assisting with this publication to learn everything they can from Edith.

As I have just pointed out, we do have some board members who are stepping down, and we feel that Board renewal is very important to not only share the work, but also to cultivate new ideas and initiatives.

Everyone working with the CLPOA is a volunteer! These people give countless hours of their time to work to make Chandos Lake a wonderful place to call home or a weekend home for many. These volunteers help to keep the costs down to as minimal as possible so please lend a helping hand or volunteer when a project comes up. The association is lucky and very thankful to have volunteers outside of the executive who use their time for environmental projects, to assist with CLPOA events, to put in and take out the hazard buoys, and so on. We encourage others to reach out and assist with all of these activities to allow future generations to have shared memories of our lake and events.

I also want to thank our business partners on the lake. We are very fortunate to have 3 different marina's on the lake who are a vibrant part of our community, whether it be hosting events, gassing or repairing our boats, or the most important feature – serving us ice-cream. We thank you for being a part of the CLPOA and the Chandos Community.

Finally, I want to thank you, the member. We would not be able to do what we do without you and your participation in the CLPOA. I would also like to encourage you to talk to your friends and neighbours on the lake to see if they are CLPOA members or volunteers. We currently represent about 650 cottagers on the lake. This is a bit over 50% of the properties. Given what the CLPOA does for water safety, boater safety, the environment, and the events for young and more experienced, we feel that the investment is well worth it. Let's encourage our friends and neighbors to join the association, ensuring a united effort to preserve and enhance our beloved Chandos Lake.

Thank you for being a part of the CLPOA community.

Dave Taillefer  
CLPOA President