

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLA PRESIDENT

A warm 2003 Welcome to beautiful and historic Crystal Lake. It was a cold-cold Michigan winter at Crystal Lake. Much colder than it has been in several years. Snowfall was moderate. Ice on the Lake formed thick enough for ice skating and fishing by the Holidays. Coffee shop rhetoric placed the ice at least 36" thick. The ice was off by April 1st. With the thick ice and good fishing, the lake was busy with fishers, fish shanties and motor vehicles of all types. The annual Fish Derby took place in February and attracted many people. There were impromptu and permitted snowmobile and motorcycle snow and ice racing the Lake. The DNR/DEQ were in presence to assure safety and enforce laws and regulations. Hopefully this spring & summer will see completion of the downtown streetscape project as well as the park and waterfront project. Both of these projects have been granted funds from the State to aid in completion.

Since 1932 your CLA has been vitally committed to making Crystal Lake and the Crystal community a better, safer and an environmentally healthier place to live and enjoy. A few of the ongoing projects and activities to assure this mission are highlighted below:

- ◆ The program to monitor the Water Quality on Crystal Lake will continue this year. Lasts fall's report revealed continued excellent overall water quality for the entire lake. "Hot spots" of E-Coli bacteria and Eurasian Milfoil weed were discovered in the area of the inlet and public access boat site. These spots were treated late last fall. The Water Quality Committee will continue to address these and other problem areas. It is the Board's recommendation that waterfront residents use phosphorous free lawn fertilizer.
- ◆ Related to this topic is our Water Safety Patrol. It is planned that this highly successful program will continue in 2003. As one of the first lakes to establish this program, we are the envy of many other lake associations in Michigan.
- ◆ The DNR permit is being sought to relocate nuisance geese in 2003. This project is now in its seventh year. It is working as evidenced by a first-year relocation rate of almost 100 geese, and last year's relocation rate was 23.
- ◆ Fireworks exhibit. New State and Federal Laws (since 9/11) have made it increasingly difficult and expensive to produce this event. Currently the Fireworks committee is searching for a site that benefits the majority of viewers and the purchase
- ◆ Your CLA leadership played a important role in the adoption of a Township ordinances that mandates orderly growth and use of land around the lake and in the Township. In January, following CLA input, the Township Board adopted ordinances that limit's what is known as "keyholeing" and/or "anti-funneling". One of the of the purposes of this ordinance is to limit watercraft on an already over crowded lake. Thanks to the Township Board for their foresight in adopting this ordinance.
- ◆ Another accomplishment of your leadership was to interact with the Township Board to assure police and property protection. Currently there is one full-time Deputy Sheriff serving Crystal Township exclusively. There are plans for additional officers in the summer months. This arrangement is made possible through the adoption of a contract with the Montcalm County Sheriffs Department. The contract not only provides the Officers but patrol cars, uniforms, employee benefits and liability insurance as well. We were without Police protection for several months in the fall. The crime rate, especially car-theft, vandalism and home invasion was on the increase during this period.
- ◆ Through the courtesy of Crystal Automation Service's Inc. (Steve and Director Amy Meinhardt) the CLA has a Web page with what seems to be an unending source of good information. You may access this page by clicking on: <http://www.crystalonline.org>

Your Membership dues and fireworks donation help accomplish these and other proactive activities. Your personalized application is included in this mailing along with a return envelope.

The Officers and Directors of CLA are vitally interested in your feedback relative to issues and activities you wish to comment on and offer suggestions. Please also express your interest in becoming personally involved in projects. Thank you.

W. "Buck" Last

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