

Crystal Lake Association
P.O. Box 307
Crystal, MI 48818

Follow "Crystal Lake Association"
on Facebook for Current Events

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ **Email** _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

**WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL,
CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay
to: Crystal Lake Association**

2021 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
Fireworks Donation (2021 Target \$10,000)	\$ _____
Water Quality Fund (2021 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____

Mail To:
Crystal Lake Association (CLA)
PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Total \$ _____

Renew online at:
<http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

CLA Mission

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community.

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Crystal Township Clean-Up Day Coming!

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021
8 am - 12 noon, or until full
Noll Park

Story Suggestion?

Send your ideas for
future CLA newsletter topics
to
mcneilcheryl8@gmail.com

Sponsors Appreciated!

Would your business like to
sponsor an upcoming issue?
Sponsor fees help defray
publication costs of
CLA Newsletters.

Contact
roxy4msu@yahoo.com

A Record Setting Membership Year!

CLA Membership Chair, Nancy Ayres

To date we have 349 memberships in the CLA. That's not just great news, it's a new record and we aren't done yet so the number may well increase further.

We received a surge from South Shore Campground with more than 30 new members and closing in on 40 total, thanks to Brenda and Carl Jonas' instrumental recruitment efforts. They truly believe in the work of the CLA and have done an awesome job spreading the word within the campground. We can't thank them enough!

While we are excited to set a new membership record, we still have work to do. There are ~700 families in the Crystal area (year round residences as well as seasonal homes) and about 160 families in the campground. That makes ~860 families who live at least part of the year in Crystal and likely enjoy the lake by boating, fishing or swimming. We'll be looking for ways to expand our membership in the future.

Thank you to all renewing members and welcome to those joining for the first time this year. Additionally we'd like to send a special shout-out to several members who sent extra donations for water quality after hearing that the invasive weed treatment cost this year was \$24,000. You know our work to protect and preserve Crystal Lake cannot happen without financial support.

CLA Board for 2021-22

Members attending the CLA Annual Meeting on July 10th at the Crystal Sailing Club unanimously re-elected Cheryl McNeil, Kim Morgan and Kent Roth to another term on the board. Board members serve three year terms which are staggered to aid continuity of knowledge/experience.



From left to right: Eric Johnson, Kim Morgan, Tim Dorch, Nancy Ayres, Steve Meinhardt, Joe Kopchick, Cheryl McNeil, Kent Roth, Roxy Eaton and Mike Manning

Board Directors 2021-22

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton

Directors:

Tim Dorch
Eric Johnson
Joe Kopchick
Mike Manning
Cheryl McNeil
Kent Roth

Why CLA Membership?

- Water Quality
- Goose Roundup
- Fireworks
- Sheriff's Patrol
- Newsletters
- Township Meeting Attendance
- Lake Association Directory
- Community Support

Membership is easy:

visit website

crystalonline.org

or

mail form (cover)

or

call 616-901-3961

for pick-up!

Dues = \$45 per year
directly support your
Crystal lake!

Prominent Township Items

CLA Township Meeting Rep, Tim Dorch

A handful of Crystal Township issues impacting CLA members, and their wallets, have been under consideration by the township board for some time. The most prominent are as follows:

Community Center: 'What to do' with this property has been examined in detail by the township board since 2018. Community sentiment from townhall-style workshops and mailed surveys lean toward retention and repair. The township budget cannot absorb the costs involved to rehab and upgrade. As of this writing, the Board is considering a bond issue in lieu of a millage proposal. Recent dialog with appropriate bond industry principals, including Sydney Bank, strongly suggests that this path would be a reasonable alternative to a new millage for Crystal Township taxpayers. The Board is not confident that taxpayers will support a long-term millage. Although there is lingering sentiment for selling, exploratory steps taken to date have piqued no interest. The clock keeps ticking while serious maintenance issues, essential upgrades and code remediation await action. Fact-finding continues.

Park Grant: The strengthened reapplication to the Michigan Department of Natural resources for \$300,000 in grant funds was submitted on time in April 2021. By the end of summer, we should know whether the Crystal submission will advance to a next stage of consideration. Final decisions will be announced by the end of 2021. There is hope, but never certainty, that our community will be selected this year.

Marijuana Licensing: In recent action, the Township Board approved the 'Lucky Buds' (102 S. Main) application for a recreational/retail license. In late 2020, 'Lucky Buds' was granted a medical license only. In a similar June 2021 action, a medical only license was approved for Twisted Sista (403 S. Main). At the July 2021 meeting, the

Board approved reopening the marijuana licensing application window for July 15 - August 11, 2021. The Board will consider any new applications at their August meeting, consistent with the existing ordinance.

Wind Energy: The Township Board received credible information that Apex Clean Energy is not looking at Crystal Township for their nine township, 75 turbine project in Montcalm County. Not under pressure to take a deep dive into the world of energy ordinances, Crystal Township will monitor and review what other townships are doing/have done but will not act at this point. Several board members expressed concerns about developing an ordinance which, in effect, would direct what property owners could or could not do with their property. A side issue regarding 'solar farms' was raised. To the best of the board's knowledge, no Crystal Township landowner has leased or sold property for solar farm purposes at this time, although solar farms are under development in nearby townships.

Police Service Contract: The Crystal - Montcalm County Sheriff contract will be up for renewal at the end of this year. In 2020, a county-wide millage was approved to enhance road patrol coverage and other services. The Crystal Twp Board has been conflicted about advocating for renewal of the contract with Sheriff Williams for Crystal specific coverage in light of the new county-wide police millage.

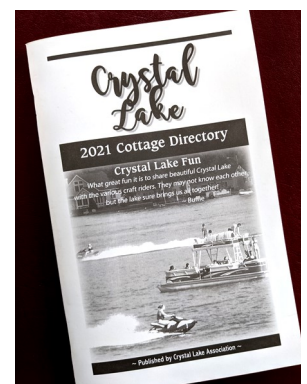
Federal Funds: In July 2021, the Board approved acceptance of approximately \$269,000 from the American Rescue Plan for state, county and local governments affected by the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. It is unclear whether strings are attached, but funds not used for specified purposes over the next three years must be returned to Uncle Sam. Montcalm County received approximately \$12 million in American Rescue Funds.

Cottage Directory

CLA Directory Chair, Roxy Eaton

- Contact me if you missed receiving the 2021 directory & placard that were delivered over Memorial Day Weekend.
- Check the directory for advertisers whenever you seek services. It's a great way to pay them back for their financial support.
- Check ahead before attending events listed in the directory calendar. Dates obtained in March can change months later.
- Need address corrections for next year's booklet? Let me know.

Email to: roxy4msu@yahoo.com



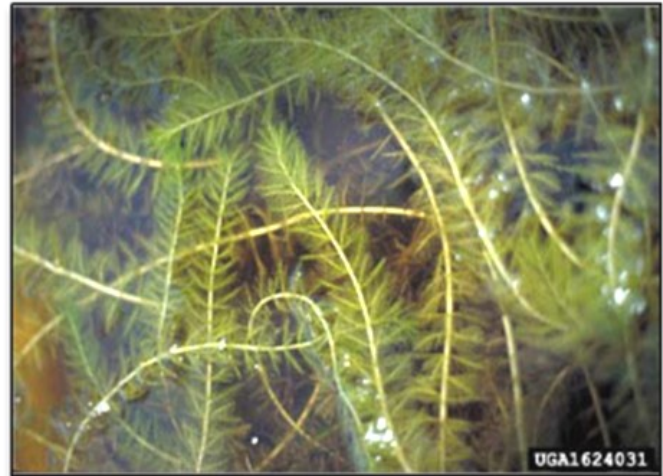
Crystal Lake Water Quality – July 2021

CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick

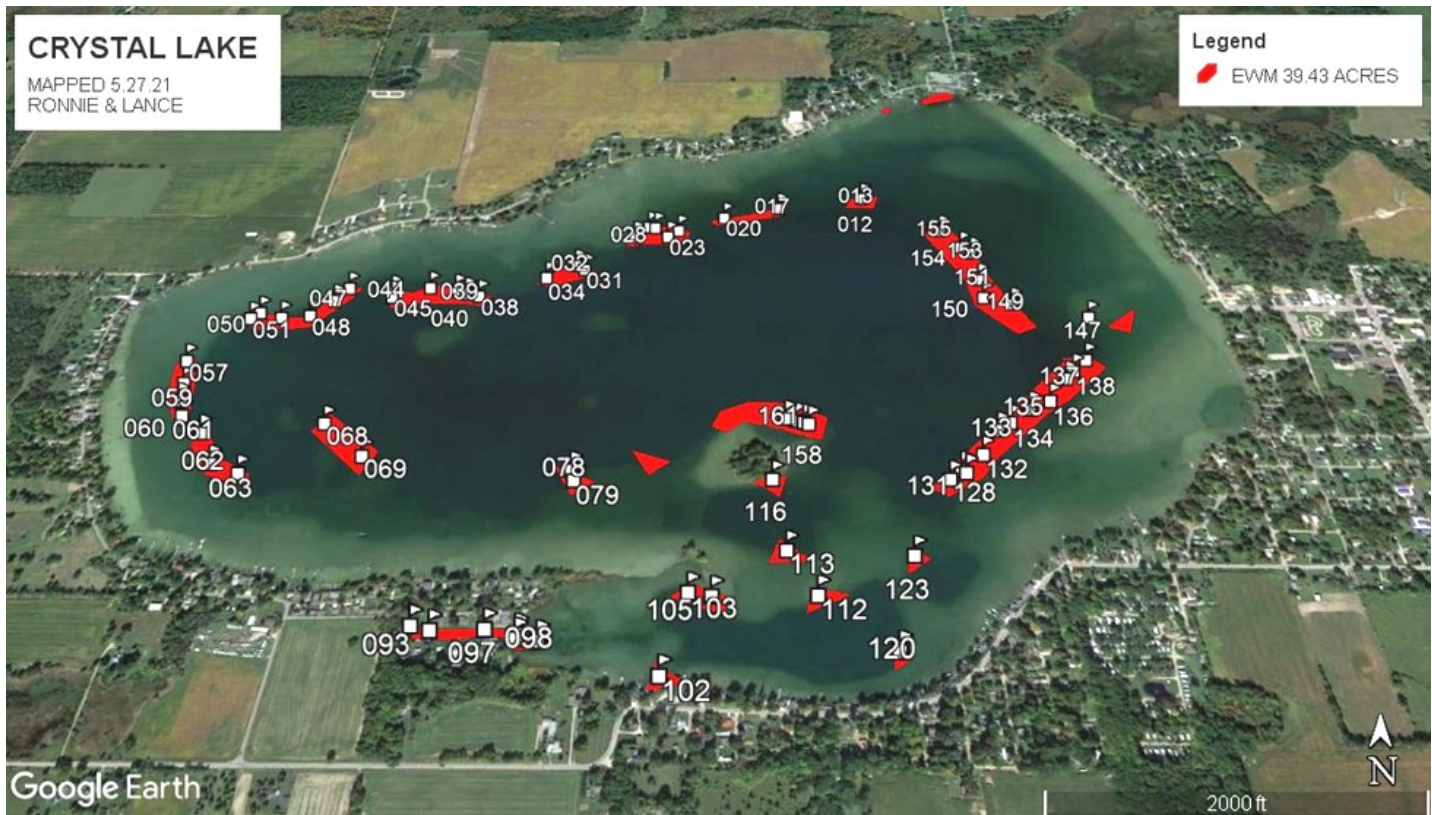
Each year the Crystal Lake Association, representing Crystal Lake, participates in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (MiCorps) supported by Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). In the spring, we collect water samples to check for phosphorous, a nutrient for algae growth. In May and June, we take samples to check for algae. The samples are turned in to the EGLE office in Grand Rapids and at the end of the year, we get a report on Crystal which is also posted to the Lake Monitoring website <http://micorps.net/lake-monitoring> for comparison to other lakes. We continue to collect samples in July, August, and September. Secchi disc readings are also taken weekly to monitor water clarity which is directly affected by algae growth. So far this year, we are slightly clearer than last year with a recent reading of 10 feet, meaning the disc is visible 10 feet below the water surface.

Another aspect of our program is scanning for aquatic invasive species which for us, is Eurasian water milfoil. This year we received an unpleasant surprise when nearly 40 acres of milfoil was identified. We were advised of three options: a contact herbicide which would kill the tops of the milfoil but not the roots, and two systemic treatments. We chose the approach recommended by our biologist at Restorative Lake Sciences which included a contact herbicide and a systemic herbicide. Treatment was done at the end of June at a cost of \$24,000 which was twice our budget, but the CLA board was unanimous

in thinking it better to bite the bullet now before the situation gets out of hand. Eurasian milfoil can spread quickly, choking out native aquatic plants and ruining a lake for boating and fishing. Here's what it looks like:



Hopefully we have the Eurasian milfoil under control, and you won't see it but PLEASE remember that milfoil can stick to boats and trailers and then re-root. BEFORE putting your boat in the water, remove any visible plant matter from the boat and trailer and drain and dry live-wells and bilges to kill any other possible aquatic hitchhikers.



Aerial map of Crystal Lake showing locations of invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil found on 5/27/2021

This Fourth's Fireworks

CLA Fireworks Chairs, Mike Manning & Kent Roth

Despite a week of forecasted rain, Mother Nature cooperated for the annual fireworks show to go on as scheduled yet again this year. The show was designed to last longer and include more ordinances than last year due to a CLA Board approved budget increase of \$2000.

At the July 2021 Annual Meeting, members asked if this year's barge locations were closer to the east end of the lake. Co-chairs Mike Manning and Kent Roth stated that no, the barges were in the same GPS location as last year but that the illusion of distance may have been due to a greater mix of lower flying ordinances than in the past.

Upgrades to the barges are still desired, so if you have a line on used pontoon tubes which could be added to the existing barge decks, please let us know. We're also open to constructive suggestions and additional hands to help with set-up and clean-up before, on and after the 4th next year.



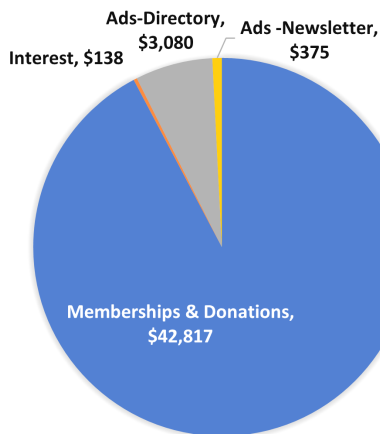
Newsletter Editor Needed

Exercise your creative communication talents and become a member of our CLA Board! Newsletters are published April, August, and October. Documentation of the process exists and if you act quickly, you can learn directly from our outgoing editor before she leaves the area! Contact nayres3801@gmail.com

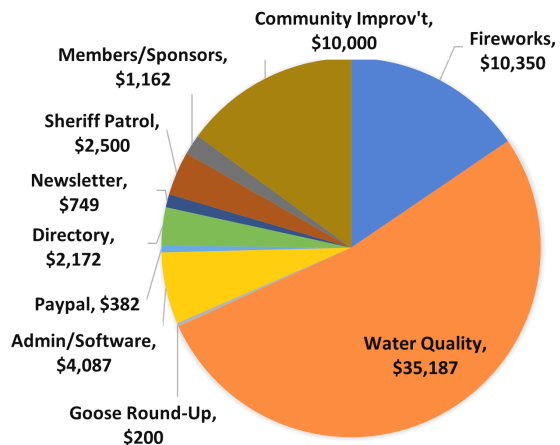
CLA Financial Report

CLA Treasurer, Kim Morgan

INCOME: JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



EXPENSES: JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



CLA financial reports were distributed during the July 10th Annual Meeting. Total income was 115% of the prior 2019-20 fiscal year while expenses were 262%. Spring 2021 expenses were impacted by a significant increase of invasive weeds in the lake to be treated (*reference Water Quality, page 4*). In 2019-20, total weed treatment expenses were less than average.

Enhancing the Tradition

CLA Newsletter Editor, Cheryl McNeil



While traveling the road around Crystal, one cannot miss the largest structure on the lake: Rainbow Gardens Roller Rink. This iconic business, an important part of the surrounding community for more than 70 years, is now owned by a young visionary with deep ties to the lake and plans for expanding the rink's appeal.

Prior to its genesis as a roller rink, the building served the Sohio - Roosevelt's 8-inch pipeline which transported oil pumped within mid-Michigan, such as the Crystal Oil Field discovered in 1935, to refineries as far away as Toledo, OH. The building's transformation from oil industry to roller rink

occurred sometime later with pipeline relics remaining. After restoration from a damaging fire, Rainbow Gardens emerged in 1948 largely as it is today and has been owned by several people since then but in early 2021, Kaitlen Meinhardt purchased it from her grandparents, Bob and Sandy Meinhardt.

When listening to Kaitlen, it's obvious that she has a passion for the future of this Crystal establishment and personal connections which also contribute to a deep sense of respect for the traditions of the community.

Her grandparents owned the rink for over 36 years. Her father pro-

posed to her mother under the iconic 'moon ball'. As a baby, she was cared for by folks who are still employed at the rink.

Yet she also recognizes what would interest young people to make Rainbow Gardens a destination activity: new music playlists each day drawn from a database of more than 70 million titles, over 60 new pair of inline skates to supplement the solid inventory of quad/traditional ones, new pool and air hockey tables, new arcade games with more on order, and lots of snacks to purchase including hot pretzels and giant pickles. The rink can be rented for private parties which allows for choice in music, activities, and food and The Birthday Room can be rented during regular sessions, for fun celebrations of any age!

Rainbow Gardens is dedicated to providing fun for children, teens and young-at-hearts like 90 year old Wayne Kelpien, who has skated weekly since the night it first opened! Current hours are 7:30-10:30 pm Friday & Saturday, 2:30-5:00 pm on Sunday. For more information, go to www.rainbowgardensrink.com



Cart and ORV/ATV Safety on the Road

Michigan Municipal League, November 2016

Under Michigan Vehicle Code:

A Golf Cart Operator on a street

- Must be at least 16 and have valid driver's license.
- Must comply with signal requirements.
- Must ride as far to the right as possible.
- Is not required to wear a helmet.

Golf Carts

- Shall not be operated on sidewalks.
- May not pass between lines of traffic.
- May travel at a maximum speed of 15 MPH.
- May not operate 1/2 hour before sunrise or 1/2 hour after sunset.
- May only operate on streets that are 30 MPH or less.

Municipalities may also allow via ordinance, ORVs/ATVs to operate on their streets as allowed under NREPA as follows:

ORVs and ATVs on a street

- May travel at a maximum speed of 25 MPH.
- Must have a lighted headlight and taillight.
- Driver must wear a helmet and eye protection (unless the ORV has a windshield and a roof or roll bar which meets or exceeds crash helmet standards and the driver is wearing a safety belt).
- Driver must be at least 18 years old or, if between 12 -18, must have a valid driver's license or a valid ORV safety certificate on them and be under the immediate visual supervision of an adult.
- Are required to attach the license to the vehicle.

https://www.mml.org/resources/publications/one_pagers/x%20FS%20Golf%20Carts-ORVs-ATVs.pdf