

# Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932    [www.crystalonline.org](http://www.crystalonline.org)    [@CrystalLakeAssociation](https://twitter.com/CrystalLakeAssociation)

Official Newsletter  
Spring 2018 Volume 1-18

#### 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.*

## EVENTS

**Boaters' Safety Course**  
June 23

**Fireman's Light Parade**  
(dusk) July 3

**July 4th**

**Parade**

Line up 9 am  
Parade 10am

**Lions Club**

**Ring of Fire Flares**  
(dusk 10 pm)

**CLA Fireworks**  
(10:30 pm)

**CLA General  
Membership Meeting**  
July 7th 10 am  
Sailing Club

**Crystal Lake Car Show  
and Cruise**  
August 11, 2018

## Drain Commission Dam Proposal Doesn't Hold Water

Several CLA board members attended the Crystal Township meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> when County Drain Commissioner Sandy Raines gave everyone notice that she is going to replace the outlet dam going to Mud Lake. She cited access, liability, safety and aging concerns. She estimated the cost of the project to be approximately \$215,000 and said it would be paid

pressed concern at the unilateral action by the Drain Commission. The CLA board immediately reviewed the situation with legal counsel. CLA Board President Steve Meinhardt and CLA Township Committee Chairman Tim Dorch, represented the CLA at the county meeting on Monday March 10th. The presentation to the board by Meinhardt and Dorch addressed the CLA's concerns about the



by everyone in the special assessment district, which includes almost everyone on or near the lake. The per property cost of the proposal would be \$200-400 each. She stated her appearance before the Township Board was a courtesy as she does not need Township Board or affected property owners' approval. According to Raines she only needs the Montcalm County Commissioners and DEQ approval. Thanks go to Crystal Township Supervisor Chris Johnston for informing the CLA of the situation as no notice was provided by the Drain Commission. When the CLA Board learned of the proposal we alerted our members who ex-

proposal. No one has filed a petition or asked for or shown support for this proposal. Raines statement of problematic access to the dam is incorrect as the owner of the dam property and the adjacent owner have both stated they have no problem with the Drain Commission, the Township or the CLA having access the dam for maintenance. They have even verbally offered an easement to insure unrestricted access. The Crystal Township Board verbally offered to do bi-annual clean-outs of debris that collects at the outlet. Raines statement regarding liability is also incorrect. The Township and County have sovereign immunity. Her statement of safety concern for her workers lacks merit as the lake

# Crystal Lake ATV & Marine (CLAM)

In the fall of 2016 Roger Martin and his wife Kelly decided to open a new business, Crystal Lake ATV & Marine (CLAM) in Crystal. Retiring from a 25-year career with the State of Michigan and a 4 year after retirement stint with a motorsports dealership, Roger decided he wasn't done working yet. An avid outdoor enthusiast who enjoys boating, snowmobiling and riding ATVs, Roger decided a motorsports repair business would be a good fit for his interests and experience (30+ years repairing and servicing snowmobiles and ATVs as a hobby) and the needs of the Crystal community.

Before jumping headfirst into a new business Roger made the wise decision to get some assistance at Montcalm Community College where he enrolled in Small Business Development classes and developed a solid business plan.

After securing financing and purchasing the property, Roger hired several knowledgeable employees to make sure that the business could deliver on repairs and service needs of their customers. Roger brought in Chad Cook with 30+ years of experience in the business as Head Technician and Devon Martin with fabrication, technical and computer experience as General Manager.

When quizzed as to why he picked Crystal, Roger said, "We chose the Crystal area because of its demographics. The location is a great fit for this type of business. The nearest repair shop for Motorsports in this area is 30 to 40 minutes away. We are providing services that range from a minor tune up and oil change to a major engine overhaul for ATV's, Side by Sides, Golf



Carts, Lawn & Garden, PWC's, Marine, pretty much anything with a small engine. We have secured vendors for pretty much all types of Motorsports to be sure we have the parts needed to repair all major brands. As the business grows we are going to stock more accessories for the Marine and Motorsports needs. We now have certain items such as spark plugs, oils, and things that are needed on a daily basis for quick minor repairs."

Roger grew up in Ionia and graduated from Ionia High School in 1978. He and his wife Kelly have lived in the Crystal area for the past 27 years. They have 3 sons and 2 daughters-in-law and 3 grandchildren.

Crystal Lake ATV & Marine (CLAM) also offers spring/summer dock and boat lift installs and fall removals as well as pontoon pick up and deliveries to and from the boat launches to the surrounding area lakes

They are located at 403 S Main St in Crystal. Summer hours starting May 1st will be.

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm  
 Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm for retail sales and service work.  
 Sundays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for Drop offs and retail sales.

A Grand Opening is planned for Saturday May 26, 2018 from 10:0 am - 2:00 pm

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary	
Vessel Safety Check	
Crystal Lake - DNR Launch	
2018 VSC Schedule	
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	
April	29th
May	6th & 20th
June	2nd & 17th
July	1st & 22nd
Aug	4th
For Dockside VSC; Call or Email	
Jim Robertson @ 517-974-2709	
<a href="mailto:jamesfrobertson@comcast.net">jamesfrobertson@comcast.net</a>	



**Board of Directors**

2018

**Board President****Steve Meinhardt**

steve@casair.net

**Vice President****Bonnie Kanitz**

kanitzb@msn.com

**Treasurer****Kim Morgan****Secretary****Roxy Eaton****Newsletter Editor****Bill R. Hepburn****Directors:****Fred Engle****Joe Kopchick****Mike Manning****Nancy Ayres****Tim Dorch****2018 Goose Roundup**

We are planning to round up the geese on Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will need about 12 pontoons for the roundup and five people on the ground herding the geese into the water. Please have your pontoons in the water by 6:30 am so we herd the geese at 7. If you can help with this, please contact me by text or phone at 989-560-4857.



We are usually finished around 11am.

Once the geese are captured and placed in the trailer by a licensed individual, the geese are relocated to a preserve dictated by the DNR. None

of the geese are destroyed.

While the geese are growing and starting the molting process, there will be adult and baby geese around the lake. There are a few easy ways to keep the geese in the lake and off your lakefront. First is to line the lake front with stringed flags (like at a used car lot) or fishing line with two to three strands about six inches apart. The first line should be about 6

inches high. These two suggestions have been very effective in keeping the geese off properties.

Fred Engle, Chairman of the Crystal Lake Goose Roundup

**Here we Grow Again**

**CLA Facebook Followers – 1029**

**2017 CLA Members – 280**

**2018 CLA Membership Goal - 300**

**CLA Membership is easy Go to our website :**

**[crystalonline.org](http://crystalonline.org)**

**Sign up, or mail in your application or call us and we will pick up your application. Dues are only \$45 per year. Please support your Crystal lake.**

**Investing in Crystal Lake**

Whether you are a Crystal resident, cottage owner, resident of South Shore campground, fisherman, boater or swimmer on the lake, you have a stake in keeping Crystal Lake the beautiful treasure it is today. One way to invest in the lake is to join the Crystal Lake Association (CLA). The CLA is a volunteer organization that has been in operation since the 1930's with one goal in mind. Maintaining and improving the quality of Crystal Lake so that it can be enjoyed for years to come by so many of us that have Crystal Lake as part of our lives.

Your \$45 membership fee is spent to :

- ◇ Hire the sheriff's office to patrol the lake
- ◇ Hire a company to test and treat the lake for invasive species
- ◇ Provide the fireworks display on July 4
- ◇ Safely and legally remove the geese each June to keep our lake and your lawns clean

- ◇ Provide placards and directories to our members
- ◇ Provide a website and Facebook page for information throughout the year
- ◇ Publish a newsletter throughout the year for communication to our members

It is our goal to have the fireworks and water quality programs fully funded by donations each year, Please be generous in your donations so we can achieve this goal.

The CLA board members are all volunteers so all of your membership dollars go support the work of the association.

How can you help? Join the CLA and support the activities listed above with your membership fees. Proudly display your membership placards. They are distributed every year on Memorial Day weekend. Talk about the CLA with your neighbors around the lake and if they are not members, please encourage them to join. We can't do this without your help! Please help keep Crystal Lake a beautiful and safe place. Thank you and enjoy the summer.

Nancy Ayres - CLA Board

## Water Quality News

**RUMOR:** The lake is sprayed with chemicals for weed treatment!

**FACT CHECK:** False! The lake bottom is surveyed each Spring by sonar to locate invasive plant beds. Only those specific locations are treated with chemicals which are heavier than water and sink directly down to the invasive plant location for effective treatment. In 2017, only 13 of our 724 acres were treated. Native plants are NOT targeted! This keeps the lake healthy and fish habitats safe.

**RUMOR:** The State of Michigan, Montcalm County and Crystal Township help fund invasive weed treatment.

**FACT CHECK:** False! The Crystal Lake invasive weed treatment is fully funded by donations! CLA

Members, fund raising events, local businesses and friends of the lake all pitch in to help fund this critical program to keep our lake free of invasive species.

**RUMOR:** Boats cannot transfer invasive weeds from one body of water to another.

**FACT CHECK:** False! It is recommended boats be washed and air dried a minimum of 72 hrs. before launching into another body of water. Some invasive weeds even when dry can reconstitute to start new plant beds. Bilge water can contain minute pieces of invasive weeds. Please don't forget to clean your trailer. You Tube has an excellent video on Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters: clean, drain & dry! This is an ex-

cellent educational tool for those of you who are not familiar with the program. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWobcoWchsl&feature=youtu.be>

**RUMOR:** Without your support, this program would not exist!

**FACT CHECK:** True. Thanks to your ongoing support Crystal continues to be a premier quality lake! We have been successful in stopping the spread of invasive aquatic plants. The post treatment lake scan last summer showed a very successful treatment. The estimated cost is approximately \$1000 per acre treated. CLA member volunteers continue to monitor the situation through monthly water quality testing.

## Drain Commission Dam Proposal

Continued from page 1

level board has been changed more than 50 times without incident. Properly outfitted workers should be able continue to do this safely. Raines stated she believes the current structure to be unsafe. CLA believes that the proposed dam design will raise new safety concerns for bikers, walkers and vehicles because the new structure would be closer to the road and has square concrete edges. Raines' concern with the age of the dam is misplaced as well since it is only 25 years old and the required 3 year dam inspection reports have been satisfactory. We advised the commission that all the neighboring property owners want the current dam kept as is. The proposed dam drops water straight down which could be very noisy and the surrounding property owners have stated the current one is an enjoyable stream. Several members suggested the money could be better spent on Colby, a County primary road, which is unimproved. The Drain Commission's plan fails to distinguish the portion of the cost of the project that would be the responsibility of the

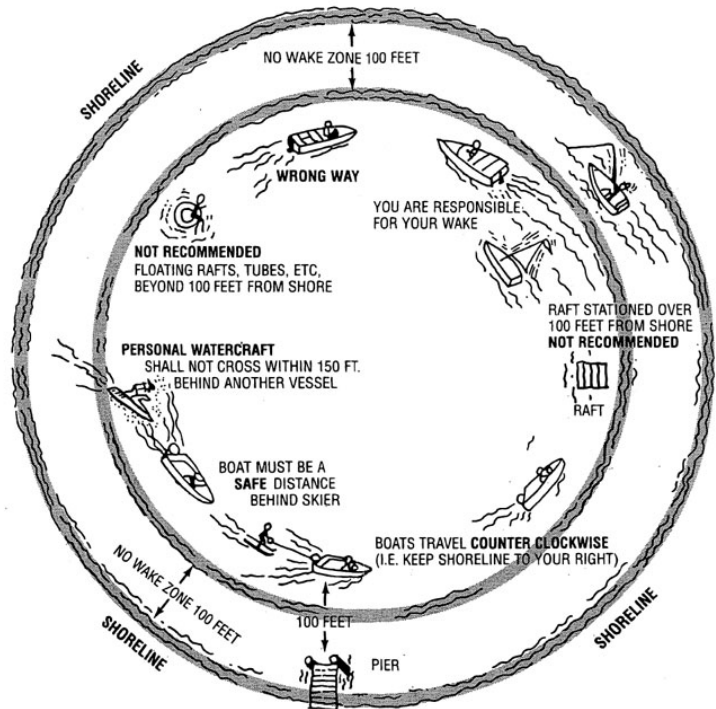
Road Commission. After the presentation of the information by the CLA and others the commissioners decided not to act at this time. The Drain Commissioner then stated her department would no longer handle inserting and removing the lake level boards and that the Township or CLA should be assigned the task. The lake level board is installed and removed by court order File 1932 – Civil 6024 dated 12-15-83 which reads "(2) the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner or his successors(s) in interest shall....". Therefore, it appears the Commissioner Raines is required by law to do the job. However the CLA Board has voted to accept the responsibility for maintaining the lake level as it is one of our founding principles from 1932 that reads "to endeavor to maintain a natural level in said lake". While the matter has not been finally decided, it appears the CLA has saved lake property owners assessments of \$200 to \$400 each which would have been spent on an unnecessary project. Please continue to support the CLA

so we can continue to represent the interests of Crystal Lake property owners.  
Steve Meinhardt  
CLA President

## May 19 Date Set For Spring Cleanup

The Crystal Township Board has approved the first Spring Cleanup for Crystal residents. The impetus was a successful no cost cleanup last Autumn at which time eight dumpsters were made available near the fire station to dispose of virtually any unwanted items. Some exclusions applied like toxic materials, liquid paints and other environmentally harmful materials. The program was conceived by the Township Blight Committee. For the inaugural Spring offering, the Board approved six 40-yard dumpsters which will be available on May 19 near the fire station from 8am to 2pm for all Township residents.

**Know the rules of the lake**  
**Make sure your children**  
**and your guests**  
**understand the importance**  
**of boating safety.**  
**Let's have a safe and**  
**enjoyable summer on the lake.**  
**Be courteous and**  
**follow the rules!**



## WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT

Those **less than 12 years of age** :

- may legally operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) without restrictions.
- may legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp, but no more than 35 hp, only if they: have been issued a **boating safety certificate** and have it on board; **and** are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- may not legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.
- Those **born on or after July 1, 1996** may legally operate a boat only if they have been issued a **boating safety certificate** and have it on board.
- Those **born before July 1, 1996** may legally operate a boat without restrictions.

## WHO MAY OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

- Those **less than 14 years of age** may not legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC) (ie. jet ski, wave runner).
- Those **14 and 15 years of age** may legally operate a PWC if they have obtained a **boating safety certificate**; **and** are accompanied on board by their parent, legal guardian or by a person who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian and is at least 21 years of age; **or** operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from their parent, legal guardian or by a person who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian and is at least 21 years of age.
- Those **at least 16 years of age and born after Dec. 31, 1978** may legally operate a PWC only if they have obtained a **boating safety certificate**.
- Those **born on or before December 31, 1978** may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

Reference: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119\\_79144\\_79642---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79144_79642---,00.html)

**Public Education Course**  
**“About Boating Safely”**  
**Crystal MI Township Hall Saturday, June 23, 2018**  
**9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

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**Sponsored By: Crystal Lake ATV & Marine and Presented By: U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating course “About Boating Safely” provide instruction to boaters at all levels, from the fundamental to the advanced. Our classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard.

About Boating Safely is a comprehensive recreational boating course. By completing the course you will receive the knowledge needed to obtain a boating safety certification. Topics include:

- Introduction to Boating
- Boating Law
- Boat Safety Equipment
- Safe Boating
- Navigation Boating Problems
- Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat
- Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating

Three Easy Ways To Enroll:

**Crystal Lake ATV & Marine - Roger Martin, [rm117racing@yahoo.com](mailto:rm117racing@yahoo.com) 989.584.4040**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary - Jim Robertson, [jamesfrobertson@comcast.net](mailto:jamesfrobertson@comcast.net) 517.974.2790.**

**Online at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=091-22-06&category=1335461655>**

**Course Cost: \$20.00 per person. \$15.00 per person to the first 20 student to sign up at Crystal Lake ATV & Marine or by contacting Roger Martin. Lunch will be provided.**

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Enrollment Form:  
About Boating Safely - June 23, 2018

Number of Students in your group \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name(s)

Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_, First \_\_\_\_\_



# Fred Engle Realtor™

Cell 989-560-4857

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*MY GOAL IS TO MAKE YOUR REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE A GREAT ONE.*

I live in Crystal and 90% of my business is in Crystal.

This allows me to be available to give my customers the best possible personal service.



319 S Main Street Crystal, MI 48818  
**Active / [17030925](#) \$56,000**



114 St Johns Crystal, MI 48818  
**Active / [17018998](#) \$62,900**



**\$235,000**  
415 W Lakeview Street Crystal, MI 48818  
**Active / [17055028](#)**



**\$139,000**  
11688 W Monroe Riverdale, MI 48877  
**Active / [18010270](#)**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association</b>	<b>2018 ANNUAL DUES ( \$45.00)</b>	\$ _____
	Fireworks Donation (2018 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
	Water Quality Fund (2018 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
	Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____
<b>Mail To:</b> Crystal Lake Association ( CLA ) PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818	<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

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

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

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