

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.

Curbside Leaf Pick-up through October

Leaves in piles near the roadway will be picked up throughout the season.

**NO
Branches - Stones - Trash**

Questions?

Roger Gooding
Crystal Township Office
(989) 235-4800

Away for the Winter?

(see page 3)

Advertisements Accepted!

Newsletter Recipients:

Spring = 600+
Summer = 300+
Fall = 300+

Advertisements help defray newsletter publication costs

For more information, contact
mcneilcheryl8@gmail.com

Crystal Lake Association

established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

Water Quality – A Constant Priority

CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick

Toward the end of July, I received pictures of suspicious, floating vegetation. I had also noticed the lake water itself appeared quite green and the water clarity, as measured with the Secchi disc, was only 8 feet deep.

So on August 24th, a late season scan for invasive species was ordered and it turned up almost 8 acres of Eurasian water milfoil (see picture, below). Rather than wait for spring, the CLA Board decided it better to address the invaders right away. On September 10th, a cool day when there was little lake activity, the lake was treated and notices were distributed advising people to avoid the water for a day.

As for the algal bloom, there has been improvement as the water has begun to cool. Previously, and as reported in the summer newsletter, Jennifer Jemalowicz-Jones of Restorative Lake Services had explained that the green algal bloom was wide-spread, exacerbated by the summer's extreme heat and abundant sunlight. Treatment was discouraged as the algal benefit would have been temporary and it could have added stress to the fish population, which were struggling with water temps in the upper 80's.

If the algal bloom persists, however, man-made causes such as fertilizer or septic run-off will need to be investigated.



This map shows the August weed locations. The CLA contracts Restorative Lake Science to scan for and locate/map invasive weeds, and then the CLA contracts a different company, PLM, to treat/kill the weeds.

Board Directors 2020-21

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton
roxy4msu@yahoo.com

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 (last pg)

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

Prominent Township Issues

CLA Township Meeting Rep, Tim Dorch

- **Marijuana** - Sept 9, the Crystal Township Board approved the license application and site plan by Crystal resident Jim Chandler, dba 'Lucky Buds' Medical Marijuana Provisioning Center. This was the lone application tendered in the May-July open season. The facility was approved to operate out of the former laundromat. The license will issue forthwith. In a 'Daily News' article, Chandler was quoted as anticipating becoming operational by the start of 2021.
- **Public Docks** - Regarding 'rules of use' for the newly installed docks, the Township and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), have contacted the township's attorney and insurance carrier to identify prohibited conduct to codify into an enforceable ordinance. To date, the Sheriff's Marine Patrol has begun monitoring the dock area. Final action is anticipated in the next few months and existing signs will be replaced prior to the 2021 boating season.
- **Park Redevelopment Project** - A grant application was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Natural Resources Trust Fund before April 1, 2020. The Township should hear something in the 2020 calendar year. This was a new/improved version of the 2019 application, which is believed to have missed approval by a narrow margin. Visit <https://www.crystal-park.org>
- **Community Center** - Aug 12, the Township Board approved a motion to 'save the building' thus ending a year-plus long-process. An essential roofing repair of \$88,664 was also approved as a first rehabilitative step. Over time, many more rehabilitative actions will be necessary as the Township budgeting process permits.
- **Clerk & Treasurer Offices** have resumed public hours. Essentially, the Clerk's office (Patty Baker-Marek) is open Tuesday mornings; the Treasurer's Office (Nancy Mills) is open Wednesday mornings. Masks and social distancing requirements continue in accordance with existing Executive Orders from the Governor's Office. Routine monthly **Crystal Twp Board meetings** are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month, beginning at 7pm. Masks and social distancing also apply. **Community Center tenancy** will soon resume, including Head Start. Additional tenant identities and dates are not known to this writer at this time.
- **Crystal Beach** - The existing annual Township lease for this property expires May 31, 2021. Because of unspecified negotiation delays, the owner gave the township two, free months. The \$7500 balance is being paid-off monthly beginning August 1st, 2020, until expiration.
- **Contract Sheriff Services** - The existing contract between the township and Montcalm County Sheriff for Crystal specific services expires at 2020's end. The Board has yet to take an official renewal position in light of the approved, county-wide milage to significantly enhance Sheriff Williams staffing and overall patrol services. It remains to be seen whether the Board will walk away in whole, or in part, from Crystal specific police services. Anything from renewal, to nothing extra, to hybrid enforcement services only during peak periods is possible. Crystal will have police coverage from both the Sheriff and Michigan State Police, but it may mean no dedicated, more routine deputy presence in our community. This could be a negative for the lake's long, off-season.
- **Township Board Election** - The August primary resulted in two changes on the board. Supervisor (Curt McCracken), clerk (Patty Baker-Marek), and treasurer (Nancy Mills) ran un-opposed. Two trustee positions, held by Sherry Kutt and Drew Lane, were challenged and won by Diane Nodus-Rydahl and Roger Martin. They will take oaths of office in late November following official expiration of the incumbents' terms. Nodus-Rydahl has been active in township issues for several years, including leadership roles in the Community Center and Park Redevelopment. Diane and family are owner/operators of Fairway Farms which include a driving range, a bungalow rental property, and additional components. Martin has also been active in township issues, having served as chair of the 2017/18 Banking Committee and engaged in Community Center deliberations. Retired from the Department of Corrections and formerly the owner/operator of Crystal Marine and ATV on Main Street, he is once again leading the re-established Banking Committee in search of a better solution to the void created when Chemical Bank departed from Crystal.

PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

The Montcalm County Sheriff's official website continues to offer a Property Inspection check program. The Sheriff's Office has forms available for interested property owners (*see excerpt at right*)

You may request a vacation house check by downloading the 2-page form at this web address:

http://www.montcalm.us/document_center/Sheriff/property%20inspection%202017.pdf

Fill it out and either print/mail it to the Sheriff's Office; or if you wish, scan/email it to mcsheriff@montcalm.us

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____
NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE NEARBY WE CAN CONTACT IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

WHERE CAN YOU BE CONTACTED WHILE AWAY? _____

PHONE: (____) _____

LEAVE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

OTHER NOTES: _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

DEPUTY ASSIGNED: _____ HOUSE CHECK NUMBER: _____

PROPERTY CHECK LOG

DATE	TIME	COMMENTS

Geese & Their Eggs

*CLA Goose Roundup Chair,
Eric Johnson*

This year's COVID issues eliminated the roundup and we're expecting the same for next year. If not for the success we had in nest/egg eradication, we could have had as many as 60-80 geese on the lake this summer. But with finding and removing 60 eggs, only 14 geese remained. So this second year of searching for nests was successful. We are starting to see the program's benefits.

In the spring (April-May15) we ask every cottage owner to walk their property and look for geese that are nesting. If you find them, please call Fred Engle 989-560-4867 and he will arrange for a trained person to remove the nest. **Please do not remove the nest yourself.** The DNR only legally allows those trained in this process to do so.

If you would like to be trained in the eradication process, the DNR has a class the first week in April in Novi and in Grand Rapids. Contact Eric Johnson 989-560-0609 and he will sign you up.

If allowed and needed, roundup of the hatched geese will be the fourth Friday in June.

Thanks to all our loyal helpers.

Thank You Members!

CLA Membership Chair, Nancy Ayres

We are pleased to report 305 members for the year, surpassing our goal! We were in uncharted, Covid-19 pandemic waters this year. Many lost jobs or experienced reduced work hours or fought stress from the great unknown. We were unable to predict how membership would be affected, but you all came through to support the CLA's work for the lake, and for that we are grateful.

Perhaps the uncertainty of this year led more of us to stay close to home and treasure the familiar. For many, good times at Crystal Lake with family and friends bring back great memories. Maybe it was the ability to enjoy the outdoors and feel safe, or the ability to vacation close to home. Whatever the reason, we are glad that you supported the CLA. Crystal Lake is a four-season vacation spot so hopefully you will enjoy the upcoming fall and winter seasons too.

Kudos go out to a few, non-board members who helped support CLA membership efforts this year. Brenda and Carl Jonas spread word about the CLA throughout the campground which led to several new memberships this year. Additionally, Kyle and Kristen Sinke delivered the placards and directories to campground members.

Records indicate that 318 members was the high-water mark in recent years, so that will be our membership goal for 2021. The CLA Board wishes you all a safe and enjoyable fall/winter and we look forward to 2021 (hopefully without Covid-19).



Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

**LIKE! Crystal Lake Association
On Facebook & Let's be Friends**

The Ins and Outs of the Dam Board

CLA Board Director, Tim Dorch

Many may know, but others may not, the legal basis for regulating Crystal Lake water levels. The historical record is clear that in 1932 and again in 1962, the Montcalm County Circuit Court codified the current lake level standard at 800.49 ft above sea level during summer months and 799.49 ft the other months. In 1983, that same court updated its earlier order by establishing a special assessment district responsible for all costs associated with maintaining the lake level. If your lake cottage is on or near the shoreline, you are in that special assessment district.

In addition to the assessment district, the Court ordered a span of specific dates for removing the 'board', previously known as 'planks', to facilitate discharge into Mud Lake, formerly known as Swan Lake. The Montcalm County Drain Commissioner was designated as custodian. The order requires that the 'planks' be installed on April 1st of each year and removed at the discretion of the Drain Commissioner between September 15th and December 1st of each year. In recent years, the 'board' has been removed in accordance with the court order with-

out notice to the public and although a new County Drain Commissioner was appointed in early 2020, there is no expectation that notice prior to removal will be given.

The Court order does not specify the engineering design to be used for damming purposes. The existing Crystal Lake system is approximately 25 to 30 years-old and is a trapezoid-style dam which requires manual installation and removal of a 'board' by multiple humans.

