

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	2020 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
	Fireworks Donation (2020 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
	Water Quality Fund (2020 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>

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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CLA General Membership Meeting

July 11th 10am
Sailing Club

Advertising Sponsors Accepted

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

roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 www.crystalonline.org

Dear Reader,

As I assemble the articles within this newsletter, it is early April and we are unable to predict how the Covid-19 pandemic may affect Crystal Lake activities this summer. While being sensitive to the hardships many may be facing and in keeping with policies set forth by the township and state, the CLA Board continues to execute plans for all that you have come to expect: goose management, water quality treatments, sheriff lake patrols, fireworks, township meeting representation, and this complimentary, spring newsletter for each property owner in the Crystal Lake area.

With best regards,

Cheryl McNeil, CLA Newsletter Editor

A Better Way to Communicate?

We currently use two **online** methods to communicate with members:

- 1) crystalonline.org web site, open to everyone, contains relatively static information about the CLA including its board members, newsletters, minutes, water quality reports, etc. The main page is basic and provides links to documents. It could use a facelift and additional functionality.
- 2) Facebook Crystal Lake Association is a bit more dynamic than the website, allows for recent posts and pictures of importance.

Do you have ideas to improve what we're doing?

- Should we be using Instagram? Twitter?
- Do you know anyone with web development skills who would volunteer to update the page?

Please contact Joe Kopchick jkopchi@yahoo.com with suggestions

Specializing in Lakefront and Residential Properties



Fred Engle, Realtor
Cell 989-560-4857



**If you are thinking of selling, spring is a great time.
Living on Crystal Lake, I can personally serve you best.**

Board Directors 2019-20

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton

Directors:

Tim Dorch
Fred Engle
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 (page 1)

or

call 616-901-3961
for pick-up!

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

Goose Round-up Request

CLA Chair, Fred Engle

The ice has left and the geese are coming. Why do we get so many geese on the lake? According to the DNR, Canadian goose numbers have increased each spring from about 9,000 in 1970 to over 300,000 in 2000. Today, Michigan's goose populations are managed between 175,000 - 225,000 and that doesn't include the thousands that fly over to reach Canada! Giant Canadian geese nest in every Michigan county but are most common in the southern third of the state.

Last year, because we were given access to the island and other private properties, we were able to collect 66 eggs before they hatched. This led to only 38 geese having to be relocated in the Round-Up. If our egg and nest destruction program is successful, in time, the geese will look for other

nesting areas. Or so we have been told.

This winter was mild, and spring looks to be coming earlier than last year, so the goose population may increase. We will again pursue egg gathering and hope to find even more. This will be done **mid-April through the first week of May**. If you find nests with eggs, please call me **989-560-4857** and I will see that it is addressed.

The **third Friday of June** is usually Goose Round-Up day. We start at 6:30 AM and have the geese off the lake and caged, ready for pick-up, by 8 AM. If you'd like to lend a hand, please give me a call.

Recently, Duck Lake consulted me, so I believe they may have a round-up of their own. That could help us down the road as well. It sure would be nice if we could get Swan Lake to participate too.



Prominent Township Items

CLA Township Mtg Rep, Tim Dorch

On Nov 5th, Crystal Township voters rejected a referendum to prohibit **retail marijuana outlets** within the township. Thereafter, in concert with the township attorney, appropriate ordinances were drafted and approved by the Board. Applications for retail marijuana business licenses can be submitted between March 23 - July 20, 2020.

Recycling as we know it has been suspended in all Montcalm County centers, including Crystal. The bins were temporarily removed as the Grand Rapids facilitator closed operations in response to state Covid-19

directives. It's expected that the bins will be returned once the Covid-19 emergency is lifted.

Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for May 16th 8 AM to noon in Noll Park. No hazardous waste, tires, nor electronics will be accepted.

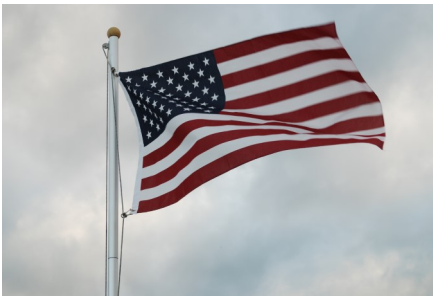
In February alone, about 120 voluntary **Property Checks** were conducted by Montcalm County Sheriff's Office deputies for those who had signed-up.

Food trucks will again be allowed during the July 4th holiday, but their location will be limited to Meyer Road, across from the former go-cart track.

Summer Can't Be Far!

CLA Membership Chair, Nancy Ayres

Happy Spring! We hope you made it safely through the winter and are looking forward to a rewarding year on beautiful Crystal Lake. As many Crystal Lake Association (CLA) members live full-time in Crystal or within a few hours' drive, we are reminded how fortunate we are to have this beautiful resource so close at hand - especially as travel becomes more difficult with the Covid-19 situation.



Your non-profit CLA relies solely upon its members to financially support its work each year. In the past, members have been generous, and the board does not take that for granted - **thank you!** We know, as an association board, we need to execute the work you elect us to do and to seek your support each year. **Please renew your membership again this year.** All who sign-up prior to May 22nd will receive Member Directories and placards during Memorial Day weekend.

In 2019, we obtained 300 members and that is again, our goal for 2020. New this year, to familiarize new members of the community with the good work of the CLA, we are offering free, one-year memberships to new property owners. Though we will work with local real estate agents, we could also use your help, to identify neighbors who are new to the area. Please let me know at:

nayres3801@gmail.com

As a reminder, your membership provides:

(please see page 8)

Water Quality Report – March 2020

CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick

We received a detailed report from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) for Crystal Lake regarding data collected last year. I asked Dr. Paul Steen, Michigan Clean Water Corps (MICorps) Program Manager, to help interpret the results.

Weekly during the summer, we take measurements using a Secchi disc, a black and white disc that is lowered into the lake until it is no longer visible. The deeper we can see the disc, the clearer the water. Last year we had an average of 15.1 ft, the same as the 2014-2018 average.

Chlorophyll measures the level of algae. We had a median value of 2.4 which was somewhat higher than the 1.6 of 2018.

Per Dr. Steen, "Both of your upward trends, on Secchi and chlorophyll, are very slight. So, while it looks like nutrient levels are increasing, it is probably only a minor concern at this point because your overall nutrient levels are still just fine."

Phosphorous measures the amount of nutrient in the lake and is necessary to support a healthy ecosystem. Our spring phosphorous last year at 8 was slightly higher than the 7 average we recorded from 2014-2018. Summer phos-

phorous, also at 8 was lower than the 2014-2018 average of 11.

These scores are combined to develop a Trophic Status Index (TSI) which indicates the level of nutrient enrichment. Our TSI for 2019 was 37. Per Dr. Steen, "A TSI 37 average score means you have less nutrients in your lake than the

"...our actions can change the lake."

typical CLMP lake. What I would do though, is point at the two slight trends and say, "These two graphs show that nutrient levels are trending up. It is a minor change so far, but this serves as a good reminder to all of us that our actions can change the lake. We want these trends to be switched and go down instead. So, let's do our best to cut out all fertilizer use and do better at maintaining native vegetation strips along the lakeshore."

"In general, your lake is not changing rapidly, and the overall nutrient levels are right in line or better than where you should be. But water quality vigilance is always a good practice to preach."

(See results on page 5)



Receiving appreciation from the Cooperative Lakes Management Program: Tim Dorch, Bonnie Kanitz and Joe Kopchick

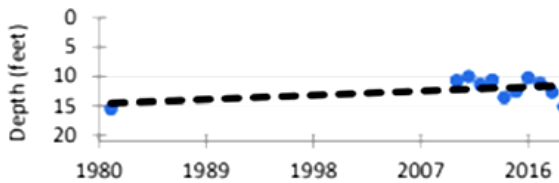
Site ID: 590105

Crystal Lake, Montcalm County 2019 CLMP Results



Secchi Disk Transparency (feet)

Year	# Readings	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2019	17	8.0	31.0	15.1	7.8	38
2014-2018	65	6.5	24.0	15.1	4.4	41
1981-2013	76	6.5	29.0	11.6	4.1	42
2019 All CLMP Lakes	3392	1.5	50.0	12.8	5.8	42



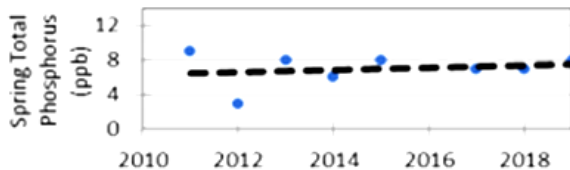
Chlorophyll-a (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Median	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2019	5	<1.0	3.7	2.4	1.6	39
2014-2018	21	<1.0	5.0	1.6	1.2	35
2011-2013	15	<1.0	5.6	1.6	1.4	<31
2019 All CLMP Lakes	635	< 1.0	42.0	2.2	3.4	39



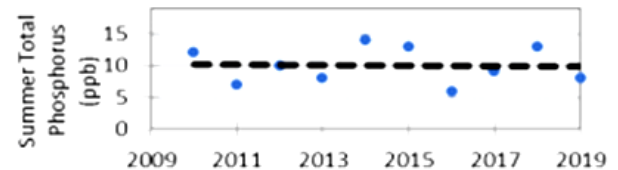
Spring Phosphorus (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2019	1	8.0	8.0	8.0	NA	NA
2014-2018	4	6.0	8.0	7.0	0.8	38
2011-2013	3	<=3 W	9.0	6.7	3.2	36
2019 All CLMP Lakes	220	<= 3	100.0	14.9	11.0	38



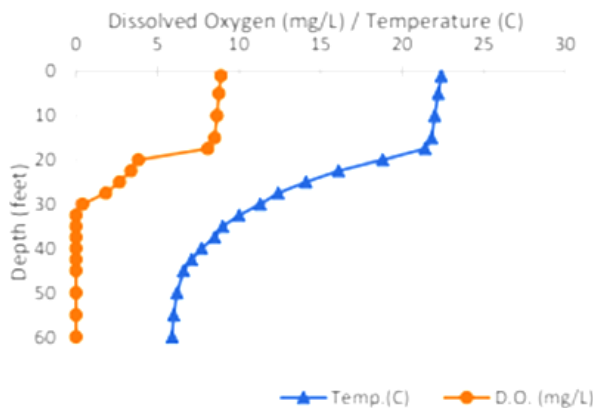
Summer Phosphorus (parts per billion)

Year	# Samples	Min	Max	Average	Std. Dev	Carlson TSI
2019	1	8.0	8.0	8.0	NA	34
2014-2018	5	6.0	14.0	11.0	3.4	38
2010-2013	4	7.0	12.0	9.3	2.2	36
2019 All CLMP Lakes	281	<= 3	65.0	12.8	9.3	38



Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Profile

7/30/2014



Summary

Average TSI	2019	2014-2018	1981-2013
Crystal Lake	37	38	36
All CLMP Lakes	40	40	42

With an average TSI score of 37 based on 2019 Secchi transparency, chlorophyll-a, and summer total phosphorus data, this lake is rated between the oligotrophic and mesotrophic lake classification. The lake leans slightly more oligotrophic than mesotrophic.

The lake keeps some dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters through early summer, but by midsummer the lake has stratified and the bottom water is devoid of oxygen.

While the trends for individual parameters are mixed, the overall nutrient levels in the lake are largely unchanged since monitoring began.

* = No sample received W= Value is less than the detection limit (<3 ppb) T= Value reported is less than the reporting limit (5 ppb).
<1.0 = Chlorophyll-a: Sample value is less than limit of quantification (<1 ppb).

Park Redevelopment

CLA Member, Diane Rydahl

Crystal Township and the Park Redevelopment Committee plan again, to apply for a DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund grant of \$300,000. To date, the park project has received incredible initial gifts and the committee is focused on building upon that momentum.



If you wish to become a part of building the park, visit the project's website at:

<https://www.crystal-park.org/>

Community Center Uncertainty

CLA Township Meeting Rep, Tim Dorch

There has been much discussion, without decision, regarding the Community Center (aka 'the old school') for over a year. The trigger is the very high cost of critical repairs and code upgrades. In early 2020, the Township Board tried to assess the objective value of the property through an advertised bidding process. The highest bidder offered \$1.2 million with conditions, to convert the property to a marijuana processing facility. Other bids, far less aggressive, were also received. All were rejected by the Board.

In effect, the Board has positioned itself to reconsider options recommended by the Community Center Committee. The Committee's recommendations were drawn from general community consensus in 2019 through townhall-style meetings, a mail-in survey, and other objective observations.

Township Supervisor McCracken has noted for the record that (1) the high dollar bidder remains interested in the property, (2) Crystal Congregational Church has offered a one-for-one swap of their adjacent building, and (3) a Sheridan contractor/investor has offered to convert the property into a for-profit senior, residential facility with rent-free, on-site township offices and continued public access to the gym, in exchange for ownership.

The Board decided to solicit the will of voters in August for a millage to deal with the Community Center issues. If the millage fails, it will revisit other options.

Montcalm County Sheriff Road Patrol

CLA Township Meeting Rep, Tim Dorch

What is the fate of Crystal Township's dedicated Sheriff Patrol road contract, up for renewal later this year?

On March 10, 2020, Montcalm County voters approved a five-year millage to add deputies to county roads. This millage will fund 14 new positions, patrol vehicles, training, uniforms, equipment, and everything deputies need for the road.

Back in 2016, the Sheriff's Office was hammered by an 11-position reduction due to county-wide budget deficits caused by faulty budget review and tracking practices upon which the County Commissioners had relied. The full financial loss was not recov-

ered through settlement and complicated civil litigation.

During the four years that the Sheriff operated under crippling personnel cuts, he strongly advocated, without success, for resource enhancement. His primary concern was traffic safety. While statewide traffic fatalities fell from 2016 to 2017, Montcalm fatalities skyrocketed from 6 to 23. Over time, routine sheriff road patrols, especially overnight, became scarce and the Michigan State Police, also spread thin, tried to reduce the void. Law enforcement professionals agreed that the personnel deficit in the Montcalm County Sheriff's Office seriously im-

acted safety and property protection.

In response to the void, Crystal Township voters passed a millage to fund a dedicated Sheriff's Deputy through a contract with Sheriff Williams. At this point in time, the Township is in its third of a three-year contract of slightly under \$80,000 annually (about \$6,600 per month) for some 2000 hours of dedicated police coverage at 40 hours/week. Does the March 2020 county-wide millage eliminate the need for the township's dedicated contract? Stay tuned!

Note: This does not affect CLA funded lake patrols, in place for this summer.

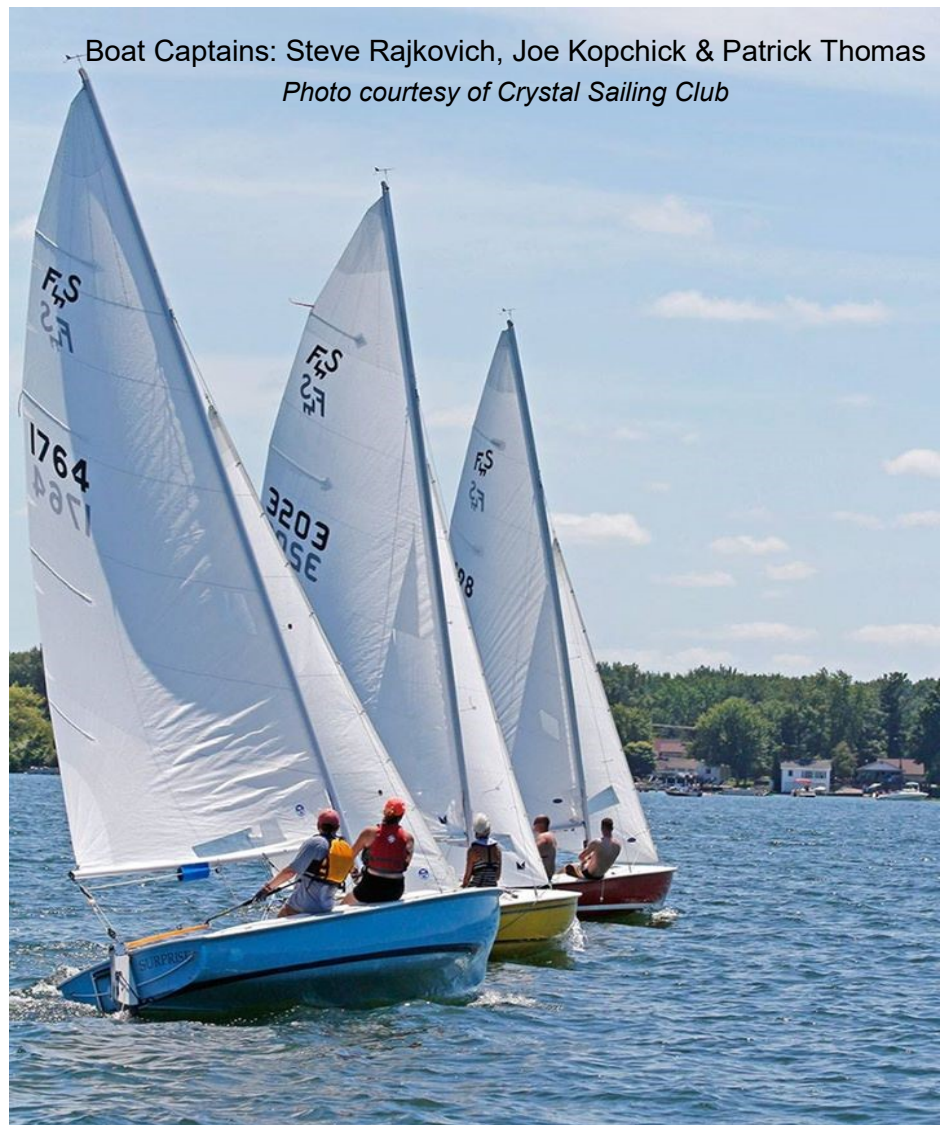
Crystal Sailing Club - 59 Years Young! *Club Member, Joe Kopchick*

By 1961, sailboats on Crystal Lake were appearing like dandelions. On July 4th, the Lions Club hosted a race to bring all the sailors together and it was so successful that additional races were scheduled for the fall. November saw a group of sailors meet in Lansing to launch Crystal Sailing Club.

In 1962, multiple sailboat types raced regularly, with attempts at handicapping the swiftest. As the '64 Olympics approached, the popularity of sailing grew and in '63, two Olympic racing-class Flying Dutchman boats arrived from Wisconsin and "smoked" Crystal's "mixed" fleet. One of these sailors was Bud Melges, later of America's Cup Race fame and for whom the Melges-class performance sailboats were named.

Crystal's pre-race meetings had been held at the Maxwell House, a B&B at the time, but the club desired a clubhouse of its own so in 1964, Commodore C.V. Wright found a piece of property on the north shore, which would be suitable if the road was moved. Luckily, the county cooperated. Land across from the proposed clubhouse was subdivided and sold to sailors for cottages with proceeds used to finance clubhouse construction. Architect and sailor, Elmer Manson designed the clubhouse and Everett Thompson provided prefabricated components. In 1965, the clubhouse became a reality.

By the late '60s, members of the "mixed" fleet began to ditch their old boats for the thrill of sailing fast, athletic Flying Dutchmen and soon, Crystal Sailing Club became one of the largest fleets of this type in the US. By the late '70s, as club members aged, they transitioned to something still fast,



Boat Captains: Steve Rajkovich, Joe Kopchick & Patrick Thomas
Photo courtesy of Crystal Sailing Club

but more comfortable, and Flying Scot boats became prevalent.

Sailing continues uninterrupted with regular Flying Scot and Sunfish fleet races every weekend on alternating Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30pm start. Social events are held through the year, including an annual Crystal Ball Invitational Regatta in August. Club membership (\$330+\$25 capital improvement fee) is open to sailors with, or without, a boat. Plenty of boat slips are available at an additional charge.

Stop by on a race day to check things out!

SAILING SCHOOL

No experience required

July 14 - 17 Ages 12 & up
\$100/student, family discount avail.

Club provides:
boat, book, instructor & venue

To register contact:

freyjad2@gmail.com

Private lessons also available

Safety Tips for Children and Guests to Understand

From the Dept. of Natural Resources, Michigan Dept. of Transportation, and Friendly Neighbors

BOATERS — Know & follow the rules of navigation

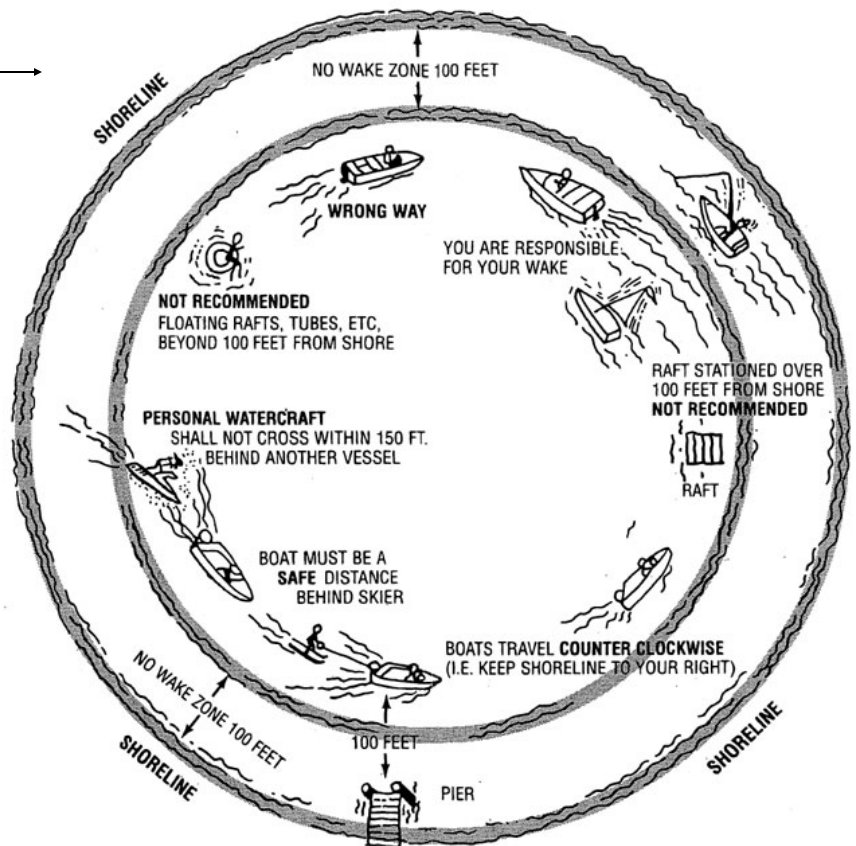
PEDESTRIANS — Walk/run on the side of the road as far to the left as possible **AGAINST** oncoming traffic, where there are no sidewalks.

BICYCLISTS — Always ride **WITH** other traffic.

DRIVERS — Leave at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a bicyclist when passing.

PROPERTY TIPS — Before leaving for the week:

- Take care with placing trash cans; they may get knocked over if too close to the road.
- Raise watercraft high and secure kayaks, water toys, umbrellas etc. to protect against high water/wind losses.



CLA Membership Provides

(cont'd from page 4)

- Water Treatment to help our lake be clean and free from invasive species.
- Goose Round-up to help keep the lake less messy from those somewhat aggressive birds.
- Fireworks on July 4.
- Sheriff Patrol on lake all summer to help it be safe for all.
- Facebook page, website and two, members-only newsletters to keep up to date on lake happenings.
- Membership Directories and placards.

Here's hoping for a safe and fun-filled Summer!

Help Prevent Invasive, Aquatic Hitch-hikers

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!

