

Welcome to Summer!

Hi to all.

Wow! What a year so far. The whole Covid -19 has made this quite the year. Hope all of you have fared well through this. Please be safe out there. As our province starts to open up, remember to follow the guidelines so we can get back to some type of normal.

I would like to say thanks to the buoy crew for getting the job done with another successful year. Thanks to Jay Card, Steve Scott, Pat Moriarty, Ric Mackey, Bob Strain, Peter van der Velden & Pete Major.

Thanks to Ted for keeping us up to date on the water levels & the forestry project.

Thanks to Suzanne for doing the newsletter and Val for keeping the website updated & our committee for keeping everyone up to date with the latest news we get from the region. Without a support crew we cannot keep up. So thanks all.

Let's get this summer underway and this Covid behind us. Have a great cottaging season & see ya out on the water.

Joe Natale
CCA President

Membership

Did you know ... that our lake's buoy program is run by a group of dedicated CCA volunteers that put them in and maintain them all season long. The CCA has to purchase the buoys and the insurance to be able to keep the buoys in place and ensure safe navigation around our beautiful waters. This is just part of what your \$30 membership fee helps to cover. The CCA is active in reviving the community spirit on our lake by keeping cottagers informed and connected through email blasts and website updates and fostering a healthy relationship with the town and locals. With the help of more volunteers we have run (and hope to do so again) a successful DockFest event to bring cottagers together and to help generate funds to make sure that the CCA is able to continue to bring our community together. If you haven't done so, please renew or become a member.

Website & Social Media

Stay in touch! Get Social! Visit the CCA website.

Visit our recently redesigned website to find the the latest news from the lake, including water levels, what do in an emergency, dump hours and more. On the site, you can become a CCA member or renew your membership, advertise your cottage rental and much more. Please visit catchacomalake.com.

Follow us on social media and be sure to tag us when posting pictures of the lake. We have a Facebook page ([catchacomacottagers](https://www.facebook.com/catchacomacottagers)) and group, as well as Instagram ([catchacomalake](https://www.instagram.com/catchacomalake)) and Twitter ([catchacomalake](https://twitter.com/catchacomalake)).

Become A Member

\$30^{only}.00

**there's a lot
in it
for you!**

CatchacomaLake.com/become-a-member/
SUPPORT YOUR LAKE BECOME A MEMBER

Hazard & Navigational Buoys

The CCA deploys and maintains 42 hazard buoys in 16 locations and 21 navigation buoys in 5 locations throughout Catchacoma Lake and Catchacoma Narrows. Yellow hazard buoys identify underwater hazards and shoals. Shoals and rock formations can be quite large and extend many meters beyond the markers, boaters are advised to give a wide berth. Red and green aid in navigation through some of the busier channels on Catchacoma Lake and Catchacoma Narrows

Boaters are reminded the buoys are seasonal and therefore not attached to the lake bottom. Due to weather, changing water levels or sometimes the ropes are cut by propellers, the buoys can move out of position. Buoys are checked regularly by our volunteers and adjusted, as necessary. The program does not guarantee that buoys have not moved or that unmarked locations of the lake can be safely navigated. The primary responsibility for safe boating remains with the operator of the vessel.

On behalf of the Catchacoma Cottagers Association I would like to take this opportunity to thank the spring 2021 team the helped with the deployment of the buoys. From left to right, Bob Strain, Ric Mackey, Jay Card, Steve Scott, Peter van der Velden, Pat Moriarty. Missing, Pete Major. I would also like to thank Ric Mackey and the Catchacoma Marina for the use of their barges this spring for the deployment.



Spring 2021 Buoy Deployment Team

L to R: Bob Strain, Ric Mackey, Jay Card, Steve Scott, Peter van der Velden, Pat Moriarty.

Missing: Pete Major

Water Level Info

On June 15, TSW released its first weekly Drawdown Forecast of the season. It indicates that over the next two weeks our water level will drop an additional 29 cms or more than 11 inches.

The water level on the Mississagua chain of lakes, including Catchacoma, was at its full level in May, however since early June the level has been dropping and TSW has begun its seasonal drawdown of reservoirs. The Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) water management team has continuously adjusted the logs in the dam to manage our lake level while providing the required flow to the Mississagua River.

However we are experiencing one of the driest seasons in the last 50 years. Seven of the last nine months have seen below average precipitation amounts, and in May we received only 29% of the normal amount of rain. Without really significant rainfall amounts above normal there is a real risk we will see very low water levels this summer.

Many large reservoirs north of us did not reach their full levels in spring and are well below normal seasonal levels now. The Kawartha lakes, the connecting Canal sections and the downstream waterway are all at levels to support navigation. Since April TSW has implemented water conservation measures in the Kawartha Lakes and downstream with the flow on the Otonabee River in Peterborough at its minimum.

Over the recent weeks we have seen several significant rainfall events pass south of us or far to the north. Recent spotty thunderstorm activity is not nearly enough to offset the drought conditions. Without significant rainfall over the entire upper Trent River area, TSW has had to begin drawing water from the reservoirs earlier than normal. The long established policy is that water is drawn on an equal percent basis so reservoirs that were at their full levels like Mississagua and Anstruther are being drawn on more heavily. Each week TSW publishes a drawdown forecast which projects water level changes for a two week period.

So while our water level experience this spring was good we desperately need significant rainfall across the system to raise levels in all of the reservoirs so that we can return to normal water levels through the summer and avoid extremely low levels.

CCA has information on our website regarding how to get and interpret the latest information on water levels. We recommend that readers refer to the website CEWF.ca where you will find the latest information from TSW including the weekly drawdown forecast, and links to the TSW website.

Logging in the Catchacoma Forest

CCA Report on Activity Related to the Catchacoma Forest

For the last year the Catchacoma Cottagers' Association (CCA) has been an active participant in the work of the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC). CCA has been represented by our Lake Steward, Ted Spence, and also by a number of property owners from around our lake and the surrounding community. The goal of the CFSC is to have a moratorium on logging in the Catchacoma Forest until its value as a site for education, research and recreational use can be fully evaluated and consideration given to its possible protection as a conservation reserve. Many activities planned by the CFSC including public events have had to be delayed because of COVID related restrictions.

There are several documents and reports posted on the CCA website outlining the actions of CFSC and including links to documents and reports.

The Catchacoma Forest ~ The Catchacoma Forest is an area of 600+ hectares of mature and old growth eastern hemlock forest stretching from the north shore of Catchacoma Lake north towards Pencil Lake and from 507 on the west to the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park boundary on the east. Access to the forest is from the parking lot on the east side of 507 north of Baldwin Bay Road.

Consultation on the Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) 2021 to 2031 ~ Since last summer there have been three stages of consultations on the draft Forest Management Plan for the entire Bancroft Minden Forest Management Unit which is a huge area extending from the southern edge of Algonquin Park to the north shores of the Kawartha lakes. The Catchacoma Forest is a very small unit in that very large area.

In March 2021 the draft FMP was made available for public review and comment. The draft continued to show a significant section of the Catchacoma forest as scheduled for logging in the 10 year period. The CFSC analyzed the draft and submitted comments before the deadline in mid May.

The CFSC again asked that the Catchacoma Forest area be removed from planned logging in the 10 year plan to allow time for a full evaluation of its environmental values and its possible protection as a conservation reserve for education, research and recreational use.

The Catchacoma Cottagers' Association Board, along with the Cavendish Community Ratepayers and the Municipality of Trent Lakes all wrote letters supporting the request from the CFSC and filed them with the government before the deadline in mid-May.

Next Steps

At the time of writing in late May, CFSC is consulting with the Ministry of Natural Resources to try to resolve the issues raised. The final version of the Forest Management Plan is expected to be released this summer. Meanwhile the CFSC is planning a program of field visits and studies to be implemented as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted. The activities will include public events which will be announced on the CCA website and through other community groups. Refer to the CCA website for more background information and updates. Information can also be accessed directly from the CFSC site at <https://www.peterboroughdgrowth.ca/> then follow the link to Catchacoma Forest.



Council Update

Welcome Back, Cottagers! Despite COVID restrictions, life goes on and business gets transacted. Trent Lakes Council has continued to meet and advance many initiatives for improving our quality of life, safety and health. Here are just a few that might be of interest.

Specific to Cavendish:

Septic inspections were performed by Peterborough Public Health in Cavendish last summer, for the fifth straight year. Because many cottagers did not visit last summer, there were deferrals that will be priority this summer. As in previous years, more than 10% of inspected properties required a follow up letter for remediation, supporting the need for this program to ensure proper septic maintenance and avoid seepage into our water bodies.
<https://www.trentlakes.ca/en/build/septic-systems.aspx>

A new Public Works dome building will be constructed behind the Cavendish Community Centre this summer. Our local roads maintenance employee will have an indoor space (finally) to put on and take off chains in the winter and a dry place to perform maintenance.

The OPP has been asked to designate a portion of the 507 as a Community Safety Zone. Fines will be doubled for violations in that area.

The Municipality has supported private citizen calls for protection of the Catchacoma Forest, which is on Provincial Crown Land.

Old mattresses will be accepted at the Buckhorn waste transfer site on June 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th for a fee of \$20. Old tires (max. 4 per load) are accepted cost-free at the Cavendish waste transfer site during operation hours.

General Interest:

The 2021 budget for the Municipality of Trent Lakes is \$14 million. This is a decrease from 2020, largely due to a decrease in capital spending. The year over year tax rate increase is 0.64%. The impact *you* will see, is that the Municipal portion of your taxes will be \$388.67 for every \$100,000 of assessed value of your property. County and Education taxes add an additional \$490.76, for a total tax of \$879.43 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value.

As a side note, Trent Lakes annually grants about \$50,000 to local not for profit organizations that provide needed services to our residents. Community Care and the Outreach Centre (food bank) are just two. In comparison, Selwyn grants \$5,000 cash, with additional in-kind.

Short Term Rentals (STRs) has been a topic of much concern, discussion and division. A working group was created last September to review the situation in Trent Lakes, interview key stakeholders and recommend a strategy for managing these STR properties. A report was presented to Council in January, recommending that a licensing bylaw be drafted and published for public input. Because of COVID restrictions and the challenge of conducting a fulsome consultation process, a decision by Council on the recommendations was deferred

Internet and cell coverage is another "hot" topic here in Cavendish. I think it is fair to say that all of us have struggled with this, from the good old days of Dial-Up to today's frustrating experience with satellites, fixed wireless, mobile wireless, DSL and probably some others that I also don't fully understand. Suffice to say, service is often spotty, slow, unreliable and costly. It won't be instant, but through the persistent lobbying of municipal and county governments in Eastern Ontario, there is a plan.

Cell (mobile phones): Rogers has been awarded a contract to improve cell service for 99% of Eastern Ontario (EO) residents. They are starting to upgrade the 300 towers in EO to 5G, end date December 2022. 300 new towers will be built over the next five years, end date December 2025.

<https://www.eorn.ca/en/projects/improving-cell-service.aspx>

Broadband (home internet): The Eastern Ontario Regional Network has a plan to bring 1 Gig fibre optic cable to 95% of residences and buildings in Eastern Ontario. Most of the cable will be aerial, attached to existing hydro and telephone poles. 1 Gig is 20x faster than the current 50 MBPS down/10 MBPS up). \$1.2 billion in Government and private funding have been requested by a consortium of all EO Wardens, Mayors and Councillors. If approved, this will be a five year project. <https://www.eorn.ca/en/projects/broadband-phase-2.aspx#Next-Steps>

In the Municipal world, it is ironic that the pandemic has accelerated the transition to digital and online processes. Kudos to our staff who have embraced and expanded these. Some improvements that you might notice:

- A new, user friendly website: www.trentlakes.ca
- Online building permit applications ("Cloudpermit")
- eProcurement platform for all tenders and RFPs
- Digitized records and archives
- Live streaming of Council meetings and accessible YouTube recordings

<https://calendar.trentlakes.ca/meetings>

I am always open to hearing from you about your concerns, issues or support! Feel free to reach me at: carmstrong@trentlakes.ca.

Let me end with sharing the commitments I made during my campaign. These continue to guide all my work on Council:

- To represent all property owners and ensure an open, transparent and accountable Council
- To focus on the *continued* economic, environmental and social viability of our community
- To contribute my business and professional skills to Council analysis of tough issues
- To protect the natural beauty and precarious ecology of our community

Carol A Armstrong
Councillor, Trent Lakes
(705) 657-7518



ANNUAL FUN SAILBOAT RACE

Sunday, August 1st, 2021 at 1pm

**ALL BOATS AND
WINDSURFERS WELCOME!**

**This race is just for fun and there will be
no handicapping, so dig out that old boat
and get it rigged!**

The course is a little different this year with the start/finish at the
entrance to Baldwin's Bay and will go south around Comstock Island
to Hunt Club Beach and back to the start.

The trophy will be engraved with your name and sailboat type.

THE THREAT OF *Invasive Aquatic Plants*

CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



Help prevent the spread of invasive species, take a few simple steps to
preserve Ontario's waters and fisheries:

- ✓ **CLEAN** any plants, mud, mussels or debris from your boat and equipment
- ✓ **DRAIN** all standing water from your bilge, motor, and live well
- ✓ **DRY** your boat for 2-7 days or disinfect it with hot or pressurized water

ZEBRA MUSSELS

ROCKY SHELL

CANADIAN WATERWEED

**DON'T LET THEM CATCH A RIDE
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS**

TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:
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