

Welcome to Summer!

I hope everyone one is doing well these days. It has been a bit of an uphill battle these past few years, but it looks like we all made it through without too much drama.

Welcome back to the lake. It will be another great year here. We have DockFest being planned and ready for another great get together with our lake friends. We have Mike Graham Band playing at the marina this year with hot dogs & hamburgers on the BBQ for you.

Just a reminder to join the CCA (Catchacoma Cottagers' Association). It helps pay for the buoys on the lake and replacements when needed. It keeps our newsletter and website up and running. Please check out the website if you have time. Also join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It will keep everyone up to date on items at the lake.

All the buoys have been deployed and are in good standing order. Thanks to our Deployment Team, as we could not do it without them, so a HUGE thanks to Jay Card, Steve Scott, Ric Mackey, Pat Moriarty, Bob Strain & Peter Major.

Water levels are good and now receding. It was at the top levels in the middle of June. I hope everyone has a safe and excellent cottage season. Please remember to boat safely and wear your life jackets. Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the water.

Joe Natale
CCA President

Membership

The CCA purchases 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. We run events 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 website to find 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)).



It's Back
2022

..with even more than before!

LIVE BAND
The **MIKE GRAHAM BAND**
BARBEQUE

Family Fun!



CATCHACOMA MARINA

SAT. July 30th

Noon -4 pm

**BUY a burger and SUPPORT
your Cottagers' Association!**

Water Quality Testing 2021

The CCA continues to support the work of Trent University to test water quality parameters on Catchacoma as part of their ongoing data collection on more than 20 lakes in the Kawartha Highlands including most of the lakes up the CR 507. CCA makes a financial donation to the program and also provides a boat and driver when the researchers come to our lake usually in August. The goal of the long term study is to establish a long term data base to allow us to identify changes and areas of concern for further study.

The Trent University report for 2021 was posted on the CCA website earlier this year. It can be found on the Catchacomalake.com Site under the "CCA INFO" heading and then "News". The data for 2021 indicate that Catchacoma Lake continues to have stable water quality on the various parameters measured. However some results of concern, high Phosphorus levels, were identified on Bottle Lake which drains into Catchacoma and a more detailed study is being undertaken there this summer.

The CCA representatives also participate in the Lake Partner program managed by FOCA and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The 2021 results have not yet been posted but CCA has received the results and no significant issues show in the water clarity, Phosphorus, Calcium and Chloride levels measured. The Lake Partner results can be accessed through the FOCA website.

Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC) Update and Film Release

The CFSC continues to work towards the long term protection of the Catchacoma Forest, a 600ha stand of mature and old growth Eastern Hemlock forest on Crown Land located immediately north of our lake and extending eastward from CR507 to the park boundary and northward to Pencil Lake.

A recent update on the CFSC activities has been posted on the CCA website at Catchacomalake.com

The CFSC was also involved in the production of an excellent short documentary film entitled Conserving Catchacoma. The film is now available for public viewing at the following link

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/news/conserving-catchacoma-documentary-film>

Water Level Info

Catchacoma Lake Water levels at July 8, 2022

This spring our lakes filled normally until early June when excessive rainfall caused the whole Trent-Severn Waterway system to overfill. Our lakes only reached a level about 10 cms above full in mid June and the level has since fallen back to normal conditions.

In late June the entire Trent canal system south of Young's Point was closed for 5 days to allow the water management team to pass more water downstream to restore the navigation system to normal levels. Now we have been experiencing dry conditions with increasing rates of evaporation from the large Kawartha Lakes and reservoirs. As a result the normal seasonal drawdown of the reservoirs has begun.

This week the TSW has posted their first drawdown forecast of the season and it projects our lake will continue to fall by between 1.5 and 2 cms per day over the next two weeks. This forecast is updated every week and projects out 2 weeks based on current conditions and weather forecasts.

Residents are encouraged to follow the posted water levels and the forecast for drawdown on the TSW website. An easy way to access the information is to go to the website of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) at CEWF.ca In the upper right corner of the home page you will find links to the Water Level Website and to the Drawdown Forecasts. On the CEWF site you will also find the latest information on water levels across the reservoir area.



Become A Member

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

\$30.00^{only}

there's a lot
in it
for you!

Council Update

As your member of Trent Lakes Council, representing the Cavendish and Galway areas, I am pleased to share a few Municipal topics that may be of interest to you. Please reach out to me if you would like information on any other topics, or if you have questions or suggestions you would like to share. carmstrong@trentlakes.ca.

Septic Inspections:

This is the seventh year that Trent Lakes has conducted septic inspections. We do this because the biggest contributor to deteriorating water quality is a poorly functioning or leaking septic system. The work is contracted out to Peterborough Public Health (PPH), who targets 300 properties for inspection each year. COVID restrictions hampered these plans and fewer were actually completed in 2020 and 2021.

More than 10% of inspected properties typically require a follow up letter for remediation, reinforcing the value of the program. This year's inspections are on:

- Beaver Lake Road
- 507
- Kings Rd
- West Bay Rd
- Other Fire Routes

Next year will focus on Water Access Only properties. We will be seeking volunteers with boats to assist in transporting PPH staff to the inspection locations.

Short Term Rentals:

Short Term Rentals have been the source of many complaints. While they can benefit the local economy, supplement commercial accommodations and provide revenues to offset an owner's expenses, they can also bring visitors to the area who don't know, or don't care, about local bylaws and community norms. Council appointed a Working Group to review the situation. Extensive public input was received on the issue, with very polarized and strong opinions for and against a licensing program. Council has adopted their recommendations for a phased-in management plan. A three year Plan has been adopted that addresses the largest concerns of most residents, while providing a roadmap that can be adequately resourced and successfully implemented and enforced. The underlying objectives for the Plan are:

- Give property owners the option to utilize their properties as STRs to help offset taxes and costs, and support the need for additional accommodation options in Trent Lakes.
- Minimize public safety risks and the noise, garbage and parking problems that can be associated with short term rentals.
- Develop a solution that is self-funding and does not increase the tax rate.

The three year plan is

2022

The focus will be on education and awareness, monitoring and reporting, and enforcement. (Recent progress includes the inclusion of a flyer with the latest Trent Lakes tax notice & the hiring of a Bylaw Officer.)

2023

New initiatives will include a comprehensive Nuisance Bylaw, an Administrative Penalties System, and possible changes to bylaw enforcement.

2024

Council will revisit the implementation of a Short Term Rental licensing program.

2022 Budget & Taxes:

The 2022 Municipal Budget is \$22.1 million. Of that, \$11.1 is for Operations — a 5.6% increase over 2021, driven by increased demand for services (Roads, Fire, Emergency Services, Waste and OPP). The other \$11.0 million is for capital projects, mainly driven by the cost of a new shared public works/recreation and facilities building on HWY 121 north of Bobcaygeon. Note that only \$10.2 million will be funded through taxes. The remainder will be funded through Reserves, Grants and Fees. The year over year (YOY) Municipal tax rate decreased slightly.

The Municipality collects its own taxes, as well as those for the County and Education. The total amount of taxes to be collected is \$23.6 million. What this means for an individual resident is that you will pay \$887.92 in taxes for very \$100,000 of assessed value in your property. This is an increase of just under 1% YOY.

Waste:

Cavendish has one of four Trent Lakes waste transfer sites. Waste reduction and waste diversion have been Municipal priorities for the past several years, and all of you have helped in those efforts.

Waste tonnage had been steadily decreasing from 2017 through 2019, in part due to the introduction of clear bags. It increased about 20% after the pandemic hit in 2020 and 2021, but that was driven solely by the increase in seasonal residents choosing to live or work here during COVID, not by an increase in waste per household. For context, we saw a 20 - 40% increase in the number of vehicles going to the transfer sites during COVID.

Trent Lakes has been a leader in the County with its high diversion rates and continued to do so in 2021 at a 56% rate. This is a little higher than the 62% rate we had in 2019, but again, because of COVID, the clothing and bottle donation bins, the reuse centre and other diversion alternatives were shut down. Thank You for all your efforts!

Elections:

There is a Municipal election in October. As a taxpayer in Trent Lakes, you can (and should!) vote here. Please take the time to research the candidates and decide who is best qualified to represent you on Council. Candidates can file their application between May 2nd and August 19th. The current list of candidates can be found at: <https://www.trentlakes.ca/en/government/unofficial-list-of-candidates.aspx>

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



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