



## Your CCA Board

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**James Maynard, Web Master**

**Bill Sayers, Planning**

**Dave Matthews, 2nd GBA Rep**

(non board position)

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Next edition will follow

Fall 2020

## President's Message: Tom Halpenny

Your board of directors met recently to discuss how the COVID virus would impact summer activities in 2020. The primary driver of our meeting was based on how to keep staff and members safe.

After reviewing the logistics of all the activities against the guidelines provided by the local public health authorities we have decided to cancel the recreational program, regatta and the annual general meeting for 2020.

As much as there may be changes to the introduction of a phased in approach by the Ontario Government in the weeks to come for summer camps and the size of groups who can gather, all of the phases will still require physical distancing. The importance of your safety and that of our staff made this decision unanimous at our board meeting.

It is a very unfortunate circumstance and we apologize for the inconvenience and reduction in things to do this summer together.

There is a good chance that the long-distance swim will happen provided that proper physical distancing guidelines are followed. The regatta committee will have some fun virtual family activities and the art on the rocks will be virtual. We'll keep you updated

Last year we ran a very successful CPR course which unfortunately we will not be able to offer this year for obvious reasons.

In order to carry out the requirements set out in our bylaws for an Annual General Meeting we will be sending out an electronic information package to each member on how to vote. Each package will contain information on what we need your input on such as CCA's financial reports, appointment of the auditor and nominations for the board of directors. We will attempt to get this out to you by the end of June. There will be a requirement to return your vote within a reasonable time limit so please do your best to respond within the dates we provide you.

Thankfully the leadership of the CCA before me built a strong financial base that can tolerate the financial loss that the CCA may see this year. Rest assured your board will do its very best to minimize any financial impact that the COVID virus might have to CCA's bottom line.

Last but not least I would be remiss if I didn't thank your board of directors for their input and continued dedication to help deal with the issues that the COVID virus has created.

Thank you all for your support through this strange and unprecedented time.

Stay well & stay safe.

Tom Halpenny

# ART on the ROCKS<sup>©</sup>

## VIRTUAL July 2020

Questions?

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or 519.925.2210



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more information to follow  
[gillespie.cath@gmail.com](mailto:gillespie.cath@gmail.com)



SERVICES REPORT May 30, 2020

### **Winter (and a Spring) Patrol**

We added a fourth, partial patrol in April just after the ice went out, this one designed to give members some idea as to what to expect of their shoreline dock areas (not a check on dwellings). On this last patrol, our new phones at last worked pretty well to transmit the pictures to our members. There remain a few glitches but we're working on them. Many thanks to Dennis Robitaille for squeezing in this extra patrol when we found our ability to get to our cottages shut down by the marina lockdowns.

### **Fires, Fireworks, Fire Pumps**

Our forests are taking over more and more of our land, and with that comes more dry tinder both on the ground and in the canopy. A good idea to keep trees and brush trimmed well back from buildings, and to have an evacuation route free of combustible debris. Also, we are encouraging you not to light fireworks except in the most carefully controlled circumstances and well away from any combustible surfaces, and beg you not to do so if it is windy or dry. One just has to think of the terrible devastation from the out of control forest fire of 2018 further up the shore to appreciate what enormous repercussions there can be from one mistake.

The Township maintains a number of fire pumps in our area (just check the CCA maps for their locations). These pumps are available for preventative measures such as watering vegetation in times of drought, or to douse a small outdoor fire before it gets too big. But, as the Fire Department has told me, fighting a building fire can be dangerous business that requires proper training. Its recommendation: if you do have a cottage fire that cannot immediately be put out, get out of danger and call 911 asap. The important thing is to save yourselves and to keep the fire from spreading.

...and if you should use one of the pumps for whatever purpose, please make sure you replenish the gasoline and put everything back in order (we had a bit of an incident last summer).

### **Medical Emergencies**

The Township's Fire department is trained to provide front line medical assistance and is tied into the 911 system. Most cell phones will pinpoint one's exact GPS location at any given time, but way better if you know in advance how to access that info when you need it, to have your GB address at the ready, and to have the info set out next to any landline you might use.

### **Large Garbage Pick-Up**

We are still hoping to have what would be an extra pick-up for this summer, perhaps in the northern end of our community, but no word yet from the District of Muskoka.

Jim Bowden  
Services Director

## Regatta and Long Distance Swim: Catriona Boyd

### Get Ready for the 95th Regatta & the 31st Cognashene Long Distance Swim!

This is a preliminary announcement due to COVID-19. More details to follow through E-Blasts.

#### Regatta

This year's 95th Cognashene Regatta will be quite a bit different as there will be no competitions held at Townsend Island this year. Instead, we will be holding a 'Remote Regatta' that will consist of weird and wonderful events created by – and participated in – community members and friends. Cognasheners are always creative, so here's the perfect opportunity to think outside the canoe fives and resurrect or invent some regatta-worthy activities around your own cottage. You are encouraged to document your events - so take a pic of each activity, send them to us and we will stitch them together to make a 95th Regatta Video!

Remote-Regatta events might include: canoeing, kayaking, rowing, paddle-boarding etc. around the island (solo/doubles/threes/fives); diving events (catch something while jumping, fanciest dive, biggest/smallest splash); senior/junior swims or paddling; novelty races with a twist; water tug-of-war; relay races; lifejacket diaper swims; well, you get the drift! These are just suggestions, so get creative and if you have any other ideas please feel free to share them!

Regatta activities must be human powered (no motors), and must take place during the month of July. Everyone who participates will receive a Remote Regatta ribbon and the Regatta is open to the entire Cognashene community. No need to worry about a rain date! Watch your inbox for a Regatta form – which should be returned to [catriona.boyd8@gmail.com](mailto:catriona.boyd8@gmail.com) with your regatta pics as attachments **by August 1, 2020**.

#### Boat Parade

There will be a community boat parade for anyone interested in joining on Saturday, August 1st. Boats can gather at 1:00pm near Kindersley and Maxwell island and then drive up the main channel (Muskoka Landing) in front of Townsend Island together, allowing us to still show our community spirit! Participants are encouraged to decorate their boats however they see fit!

#### Raffle

To go along with our remote regatta, we are planning to hold our famous – at least in Cognashene!! – Regatta Raffle to raise money for our recreation program. Instead of gathering individual items to be raffled off however, our new look will consist of different baskets as prizes. We are asking families/islands/friends to put together a basket of cool stuff to be raffled. Baskets could have a theme such as water activities or cottage crafts, gardening or wine, or they need not have a theme at all. We just ask that if you wish to help out, you assemble the whole basket as we do not want to be exchanging, collecting or handling items due to health concerns. We are still working out some of the logistics but we know we can put together an awesome Remote Raffle with your help. If you are interested in assembling a basket for us, please contact Nancy Bennett at [nancybennett28@gmail.com](mailto:nancybennett28@gmail.com)

**August 1, 2020 .**

**Long Distance Swim**

The long distance swim is on July 25th. It will have a staggered start from respective boats at Val and Rob Thompson's dock area. The docks can be used (only if needed) for people to get in and out of boats, **while practicing social distancing** . There will be no parking of boats on any shoreline. Information on how the starts will be staggered will come closer to the event date through E-Blast. This is a rain or shine event and is only rescheduled if there is lightning.

The names of all swimmers and the cottage with the highest number of crossings are recorded in the Cottager for posterity. Participants can email [catriona.boyd8@gmail.com](mailto:catriona.boyd8@gmail.com) with names and the number of laps that are completed by each individual. Everyone receives a participation ribbon too, so you might want to start training and recruiting now! The rules for the Long Distance Swim still apply: Every swimmer must be accompanied by a person (of suitable strength to lend a hand should the need arise) in a non-motorized watercraft. Swimmers can use any form of flotation. Everyone is welcome. The Long Distance Swim is not a race! If you want to race, feel free to participate in this year's Remote Regatta events.







## A MESSAGE FROM THE COGNASHENE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Board of Cognashene Community Church ("Church on the Rocks") has unanimously decided to cancel worship at the Church this summer. With no clear guidelines about changes in the restrictions for public gatherings from the Province or Municipality and the number of our congregants who are in the high-risk age group, we decided that protection for everyone was better than putting anyone at risk. Signs have been posted at the Church and we request that you respect them.

In lieu of a service, we have requested that our planned Ministers submit a 'devotional message' for distribution by email on the Sunday morning that they were to lead the service. If you wish to receive this message, please forward your name and address to Bill Hutcheson ([hutchs.haven@gmail.com](mailto:hutchs.haven@gmail.com)) and you will be included in the distribution.

### AN INTERESTING FACT!

SWIMMING CLASSES WERE FIRST PROVIDED BY THE TEENS OF COGNASHENE BACK IN 1960 AND 1961. IN THE SUMMER OF 1962, THE C.C.A EMPLOYED IAN FERGUSON TO RUN THE PROGRAMME OVERALL, ALTHOUGH LESSONS WERE STILL PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEER TEENS. 2020 WOULD HAVE BEEN THE 61ST CONSECUTIVE SUMMER FOR SWIM LESSONS!



PHOTO BY JAN GATES

**Why get involved in water quality sampling at your cottage? - Sandy Thompson**

The quality of our water in Georgian Bay is something to be proud of. In Cognashene, we are lucky to have beautiful, clear waters. Water quality sampling is conducted by a variety of groups and usually funded by various levels of government. As with most things, the squeaky wheel gets the oil, or in this case, areas with known 'issues' and risks have more consistent water quality sampling conducted. When reviewing the results of annual water quality sampling conducted by various organizations for our area, you will see that most of it focuses, for good reason, within Honey Harbour but do not extend out into Cognashene. This can be interpreted as 'no news is good news' but how will we know when there is a shift and we need to be the squeaky wheel?

There are many factors that affect water quality that include obvious items such as industrial run off or use of the water in industrial processes (which can increase water temperature), agricultural run-off and livestock access to waterways, chemical use on or near waterways, and residential/urban water and sewer overflows. [I'm always happy to share my stories of what I found floating in Lake Ontario in the Toronto Harbour when doing volunteer water quality sampling with Swim Dink Fish this past summer. PLEASE, in older cities with combined sewer systems, don't flush anything but toilet paper... it has a good chance of ending up in the lake!]

The good news, and the bad news, is that Cognashene has good water quality, partly because of our open bays, flushing, deep enough water to allow for seasonal turnovers, and lower population density. But of course, not all bays and shorelines are the same. In addition to all good things Cognasheners are doing on their own properties (maintaining septic systems, maintaining natural shorelines, keeping chemicals and oils out of the water, etc.) we can help through adding data to the long-term water quality datasets for our area (some datasets may not yet exist).

I've mentioned them before, but some of the programs you can get involved with as Citizen Scientists include:

1. Lake Partner Program (funded by the Ontario government; [desc.ca/programs/LPP](http://desc.ca/programs/LPP)). Volunteers are asked to take a water sample in the spring that is analyzed for total phosphorus at the government's lab and to take secchi disk measurements (for water clarity) once every two weeks. All equipment is provided and postage for mailing in the water sample is pre-paid.
2. Water Rangers (not-for profit; [waterrangers.ca](http://waterrangers.ca)). Volunteers purchase a kit from Water Rangers and conduct water sampling regularly in your bay or off your dock/beach. Volunteers measure at least nine parameters and upload the information into an app on your phone. All Water Rangers data is open source and you can see the sampling results from all locations globally. The kit is designed to be easy to use and engage the whole family. Once you get used to the process, it should take less than 10 minutes. The materials provided explanations of what the different parameters and changes in those parameters might mean.

**TRENDS OVER TIME** - what we are looking for in all the data collected are trends; both short-term and long-term. If something is changing, why is it changing? It is only with a good set of data that we can see these changes. There are a lot of interactions between parameters as well as seasonal variations and a single measurement can not really tell us anything. With the limited government water quality sampling dollars primarily being spent in areas that are known to have issues, it is up to us to be the first line of monitoring for our waters. If you find significant changes or trends in data you collect, we can bring it to the scientists to

highlight possible issues.

A new development in the water quality sampling world is the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) owned by the GBF, University of Waterloo, Western University, and Wilfred Laurier University, appropriately named Georgie McBayFace. Georgie can conduct numerous water quality measurements through the sensors embedded in her and can be programmed to conduct sampling continuously throughout a large area and at various depths in the water column for up to 10 hours. The volume of data and large area that Georgie will be able to cover is amazing. While Georgie's specific plan for the 2020 summer is not yet defined (as all her owners have places they would like to use her) she will spend time in areas like Honey Harbour gathering data this year

I have it on good authority that Georgie will also be able to visit us in Cognashene (Pandemic permitting). More information will be sent out by GBF this spring with details on what Georgie can measure. When Georgie visits Honey Harbour or Cognashene, we will be sure to let you know. Did I mention that she will also be able to create pictures of the Bay floor with her Side Scan Sonar? So cool!

The information Georgie will provide will add to the datasets that we create through our efforts. Georgie, on her own, will not be able to spend enough time in Cognashene to tell us the full story. Get involved, if you are not yet already, and help be the first line of defence for the waters of Cognashene





**PARENTS NEED ASSISTANCE?**

**Mel's Summer Of Covid Assistance Packages are here to help! No job is too small or too big**

Hi there parents,

I am Mel (Main)Jenkins, I grew up in Cognashene. I know the area well, I have my boaters licence, my assistant swim instructors, my babysitting course and I love kids. I will be going into grade 11 in the fall and I am in French immersion.

Originally I was going to work at the Rec Program this year, but sadly Corona has other plans. As an alternative, I would love to have the opportunity to help families through this hard time.

I offer my services for:

Child care/mother's helper including...

Arts and crafts

Movie time

Wii games

Water games

On-land trampoline

Summer tutor

Day trips including Lizard, Pines, McCrae lake...

Beach supervision

Story time

Grocery and the occasional LCBO runs (with appropriate supervision)

Odd jobs around the cottage

All in all I am here to help in anyway possible.

Summer,monthly,weekly,daily,half-day and hourly packages are available.

I hope to see you all this summer and I would love to be the help you never knew you needed.

Please feel free to contact me through my email ( [mmainjenkins2004@gmail.com](mailto:mmainjenkins2004@gmail.com) ) or call/text me at +1-647-877-8874 for a quick response. Cottage phone number is 705-756-1791 after July 1st.

PARENTS I'M HERE  
TO HELP!

I would be available to babysit, teach private swimming lessons, or tutor from kindergarten to grade 12. I can tutor most subjects, including French and music (I have a keyboard at my cottage). I am also working for Clearwater farms, delivering their produce as well as grocery orders to cottages in the area. It is a great service and a great organization that I would highly recommend! Info can be found at <https://clearwaterfarm.ca/grocery-delivery/>

I would also be happy to accept requests for any other services I may be able to provide.

A bit about me:

I am an 18 year old girl entering first year at queens university for engineering. I am a qualified lifeguard, swimming instructor, and lifesaving instructor with 3 previous summers experience as an instructor at the Cognashene recreation program and 2 years of experience lifeguarding and teaching swimming lessons in Collingwood. I am an outgoing and reliable and I can't wait to see everyone and make the most out of this summer.

Thanks!

Anna Limoges



**ClearWater Farm** has partnered with Grocery Gateway (by Longo's) and the LCBO to enable ClearWater customers with cottages in Honey Harbour, Cognashene, Go Home Bay, Wah Wah Taysee, Sans Souci and Woods Bay to order groceries online and have them delivered weekly by boat to their cottage dock. Grocery Gateway provides high quality, maximum variety, and ease of ordering and payment; ClearWater Farm will get your orders from Toronto delivered to your dock in an ultra-safe handoff. You can even add orders from the LCBO.

To learn more or order your groceries, go to [HTTP://CLEARWATERFARM.CA/GROCERY-DELIVERY](http://clearwaterfarm.ca/grocery-delivery).

## Parents need help this Summer ?

Hi! My name is Sophie Hilliard and I am a responsible 14 year old looking to do some baby sitting, mother's helping or odd jobs this summer! I have my Bronze Cross and basic CPR training as well as my boating license and access to a boat. My cottage is located on McLeod Island (next to the hole-in-the-wall) near the southern tip of Burnt Island. I am happy to babysit/mother's help kids ages 3+ and am available for the most part of all of July and August with a few exceptions. You can call or text me at 519-588-7674 or email





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PORTS Cruising Guides has released the NEW 2020 Georgian Bay, North Channel & Lake Huron Edition of this Essential Boating Guide. The printed guide now comes with a FREE mobile app version for you to download to a tablet or boat-safe device!

This 340-page informative guide has been deemed as a "Must Have" by many resident and visiting boaters to Georgian Bay, North Channel and Lake Huron.

PORTS has beautiful "Coffee Table" appeal and provides valuable information for Cottagers and Day Trippers to Cruising Boaters on extended boat trips.

Features of the guide include:

- Unmatched aerial photography
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- Places to dine
- A "Must Have" Georgian Bay reference guide
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- Makes a great Father's Day gift!
- Retail price - \$64.95

PORTS can be purchased online at [www.portsbooks.com](http://www.portsbooks.com) or at any of our local retailers:

[www.hhbc.ca](http://www.hhbc.ca) – Honey Harbour Boat Club

[www.southbaycove.com](http://www.southbaycove.com) – South Bay Cove Marina

[www.paragon-marina.com](http://www.paragon-marina.com) – Paragon Marina

[www.brandyscove.com](http://www.brandyscove.com) – Brandy's Cove Yachting Centre

