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“Skip a stone.  
Take a hike.  
Sit a spell.  
Listen.  
Daydream.  
Just breathe.  
This is lake living.”

**CRYSTAL LAKE PERCH LAKE POA**

*A helping hand, compassionate heart;  
A sunny smile, each do our part;  
A kindly act, or worthy deed;  
A tolerant mind, a friend in need;  
A prayer each day, if these things done...  
We’ll keep this “The livin’est Place Under the Sun!”  
-- Unknown*

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Kevin McMaster**

This is my inaugural newsletter in my new position as President of Crystal and Perch Lakes POA. I am excited to work closely with all our property owners and our exceptional board to continue to focus on our CLPL Mission Statement: **“A Vibrant, Private Community Dedicated to Protecting, Maintaining and Enhancing our Natural Environment.”**

I want to thank our past President Marty Mulloy for his outstanding leadership over the past 4 years. Marty and the board built a 5 year plan, worked to keep our roads and lakes in great shape, and was able to get the lake special assessment passed just to name a few accomplishments. When you thank Marty you also have to thank his bride, Janet, who was amazing at being behind the scenes organizing and running Zoom meetings, newsletters, communicating to our homeowners and being a continuous cheerleader in all our endeavors. Thanks to both of you for a job well done!

My wife Kris and I have owned our lake home for 3 years. We came to Crystal Lake to visit my sister Ann Lapointe and Alison Neff and fell in love with the place. We have 2 daughters, Ashley and Megan, and 8 grandchildren. These kids love fishing, swimming, and exploring the lakes. Kris and I met at Michigan State (the Harvard of the Midwest) and have been married for 41 years. We both recently retired in 2020, Kevin from GE after 40 years and Kris, a city planner for 30 years in our town of Hudson, Ohio. We have made some wonderful memories thanks to the lake, neighbors and this wonderful community. The picture below shows 7 of our 8 grandkids. Molly was born 4 weeks ago. Don’t let this picture fool you. It’s like herding cats to get them all to stand still and smile!

## 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

Kevin McMaster  
kmac20hud@roadrunner.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

Patty Maher  
CLPLVeep@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

Thea Kirkwood  
clplsecretary@gmail.com

### TREASURER

Mike King  
kingml8150@gmail.com

### ROADS

Rick Applegate  
csa459@hotmail.com

### LAKES

Bob Conn  
rconn1315@aol.com

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barb Yamarino  
byamarino@me.com

### AD-HOC LAKES

Elizabeth LaPorte

### AD-HOC TREASURER

Diane Ostrosky

### EMERITUS PRESIDENT

Marty Mulloy

www.crystalperchlakes.com

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued – Kevin McMaster



Our Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2021, and will be held at the Township Hall. This year we will not be having the Lake Foundation Chili Cook-Off and instead will be featuring a Virtual Auction like we did last year. Information on the auction will be sent out very soon.

We have benefited from another above and beyond superior effort by our Road Warriors – **Rick Applegate, Terry Yamarino, Tom Lieblein, Chuck Hopkins, and Tim Ostrosky** during the recent storm that knocked down 100 year old trees like bowling pins. Very quickly all of our roads were clear and passable which was an amazing feat. These volunteers deserve to be recognized for their efforts! THANK YOU!

Lastly, I would like to recognize **Judy Moskus** for her tireless effort leading the special lake assessment to a successful outcome at the recent township hall meeting. This process has been many years in the making, and your herculean effort helped us get this across the finish line. THANK YOU!

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Patty Maher

Hello CLPL Lake Community! I am Patty Maher and I want to introduce myself as a new Board Member. My wife Lois Plantefaber and I co-own the red cottage – on the island next to Thea Kirkwood and Bill and Ena Hagen – with our good friends Alison Neff and Ann LaPointe. We have been on the lake for about 10 years, and throughout this time our positive experiences and friendships on Crystal / Perch Lakes have grown and become central components of our life such that we decided to build a new cottage which we can enjoy year-round. We are invested in our lake community.

Professionally, in 2019 after 32 years, I retired from the University of Michigan as Director of Survey Research Operations at the Institute for Social Research. So, when I was recently asked by Marty Mulloy and Kevin McMaster to join the Lake Board as Vice President, I gave it serious consideration. Like most people, when directly asked to serve your

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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, continued – Patty Maher

community – and you have the time and talent to do so – you say yes. (And it is always wise to heed the call from two Irishmen!)

I look forward to working with the entire board and hope I can be of service and contribute substantially to our community. I can be reached at CLPLVeep@gmail.com or (734) 417-1549.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT – Thea Kirkwood

I would like to express my gratitude to the many people who have reached out to thank me for taking on this role. There are so many people on this lake that help make our community a special place to live. I have laughed at the number of comments I've received on my communication style – short and sweet – I added the sweet.

It is my goal to send communications of common interest for the membership. Distributing this newsletter via email is an example of the most efficient way (time and cost) for our board to keep you informed. I will continue to respond to all emails sent to me, and I appreciate that there have not been any related to selling personal property.

The directory has been updated this summer including changes to emails and phone numbers. I'd like to give many thanks to Vanessa Campbell for her expertise with Excel and assisting me with this project. We have had several properties change hands on the lake and will continue to verify that we are notifying all the appropriate parties with our communications. If you would like to check the status of your contact information, you may email me at [clplsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:clplsecretary@gmail.com). An email was sent out last week from Judy Moskus regarding the passing of the SAD at the August 19<sup>th</sup> township meeting. The overwhelming support of the community and the many members who attended were greatly appreciated by the board. It took several years of planning, and this will be used to support elements of the 5 Year Plan that was presented in 2018. You can review this plan at our website by clicking on this functional link: [www.crystalperchlakes.com](http://www.crystalperchlakes.com).

Now that the SAD is established, the second step will take place on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7p when the second public hearing is held at the township hall. You received a notification from the township with tax IDs to be included in the SAD. The CLPL Board used the model of the road dues with exceptions for those without any lake access. If you believe that you have a valid reason to be excluded or their list includes multiple tax IDs, this is your time to raise the objection to the trustees for them to make the final determination.

Thanks to all the road warriors out there who have spent many hours cleaning up the aftermath of the storm. My property took a brutal hit, but the trees spared the home. My husband, Stan, was known for his focus on replacing some of the old oak trees with new trees, particularly different varieties, to maintain our "Up North" feel. Someone suggested that perhaps he knocked them over. Once I rebuild the hillside, we will have a celebratory planting of 2 or 3 trees on the lakeside in his memory. There are still days of sun to enjoy this summer, so I hope to see you out there.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT – Mike King

The Road and Administration invoices for this fiscal year will be sent out this September. I wanted to thank everyone in advance for your timely payments which provide the necessary funds to maintain the roads and our wonderful lake environment.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT, continued – Mike King

Expenses to Date	\$ 7,815
Checking Account Balance	\$ 13,326
Savings Account Balance	\$ 46,945

Once again wanted to thank all for being current on their dues which provides the necessary funds maintain the roads and our wonderful lakes environment.

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## ROADS' REPORT – Rick Applegate

Thanks to the volunteers, Terry Yamarino, Tom Lieblein, Chuck Hopkins, Tim Ostrosky and numerous others who help out on our road work throughout the year.

Storage of our Maintainer (Gator) is located in Dan Stevick's pole barn and has proved to be the best solution for protecting our investment now and for years to come. Thank you, Dan, for working with us to store not only the Maintainer but other equipment as well.

Dust Control is applied two or three times each year as our budget allows. Periodic rains during the summer help the effectiveness of the applications.

Mowing is done at each entrance and the two boat launches. We also have a subcontractor who mows roadside areas in mid June.

The compost area was a lifeline this year with the storm that rolled through in August. Thanks for helping keep any tree limbs 6" or larger out of the compost. Branches and small limbs only are the rule of thumb. In an effort to extend the life of the compost, we will close the area from anyone entering with a vehicle from December 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. You will still be able to enter alongside the chain but not enter with a vehicle. Thank you for your compliance!

The paving project at the South Crystal Lake entrance may be finished by the time this report is posted. This includes resealing the north entrance.

Fall is the time for raking leaves. Please!! Do not rake leaves into roadways or burn leaves in roadways. There is a considerable amount of water from our roads that drains into our lakes.

Snow plowing for our roads is subcontracted by Precision Lawn Care. If you are interested in snow plowing your driveways or lawn care call 517-438-1309.

My coworkers and I spend a significant amount of time keeping our roads in good condition. Your help is appreciated keeping drainage areas from roads clear and roadsides free of debris and trash. We enjoy helping everyone out as much as possible, but we can't do it all. Please help us out from time to time.



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## LAKES' REPORT – Bob Conn

Summer is slowly coming to an end, but the heat certainly doesn't want to let go. I only have a few comments and would like to pass along my thanks for your support of the SAD. This summer brought the usual algae blooms and large amounts of invasive pond weed to Crystal. With your help, we managed to keep Crystal in good shape for a balanced approach for all uses. Perch Lake had a much different summer as we treated it heavily to combat the Starry Stonewort which was taking over. We were successful in controlling it but at the cost of water clarity for the summer. It is my hope that Perch next year will see less nutrient load in the lake and will be back to the nice clear water we enjoy.

Please note that sun penetration into our lakes does increase plant load. I will continue to add fathead minnows into both lakes as an organic solution. One of our members asked a great question with regards to chemical contamination of our ground water and potential hazard to our wells. Many years ago James, from PLM, and I made sure not to use any chemical products like Granular 2,4D which does have well restrictions. With that said, I will do my best to ensure folks who have wells near the lake do not receive any spraying near the well as an extra precaution. Enjoy the rest of summer and fall as I always look forward to hearing your input as to how we are doing.

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS – Barbara Yamarino

I'm happy to let you know I will be back on the CLPLPOA Board in charge of Special Projects. Because of the increase in COVID numbers, we will not be having a fall / winter party. Hopefully next year we can resume having many happy get togethers once again. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the fall meeting.

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## FOUNDATION

It's been a great year for the Foundation. We have collected donations totaling \$18,150 for Lake Treatment, \$2,025 for fish programs, and \$1,800 for other special projects / areas of greatest need. Even though this may be all we need for this year's expenses, we are going to still have our annual end of the year auction. It will put us over the top and, well, it's just darn fun! The auction will be online just like we had last year. Please get your items ready for the auction by taking pictures of the item and / or writing a description of it and sending that information, along with a minimum bid price, to Lois Plantefaber at [plantemaher@gmail.com](mailto:plantemaher@gmail.com). Please do this by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Instructions on how to access the auction will be posted at that time, and the auction itself will take place October 16<sup>th</sup>. In order to meet the requirements of the online auction we must limit the number of items to 30. If we get more than 30 items, some will not be included.

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## LIFE AT THE LAKE

Beaker has successfully taken his first flight which is known as a 'fledge'. His parents were feeding him a wide variety of prey including turtles, snakes, rabbits, squirrels, and, of course, fish to ensure his survival. You can hear his high-pitched chattering on the south side of the lake. If you follow the sound, you can often see either the parents or the juvenile perched in the higher branches of the trees. It has been an exciting process to watch, and given the success, perhaps we will enjoy another season of bird-watching next year.



## LAKE REFLECTIONS

Some very creative women on our lakes, in relationship to a book they were reading, challenged themselves to writing Haiku's (light verse), a Japanese poem traditionally evoking images of the natural world. I thought these were well done and wanted to share them with you.

**On a wind song breeze  
Beneath the oak tree dance  
Bright yellow daises**

-- Elaine Tetreault

**Wind blowing the leaves  
Water lapping the shoreline  
Home is such a comfort**

-- Cindy Applegate

**Heron in the marsh  
Unaware that it delights  
Nature's elegance**

-- Annamarie Asher

**Life can be prickly  
And yet such sweet connections  
We all get a turn...**

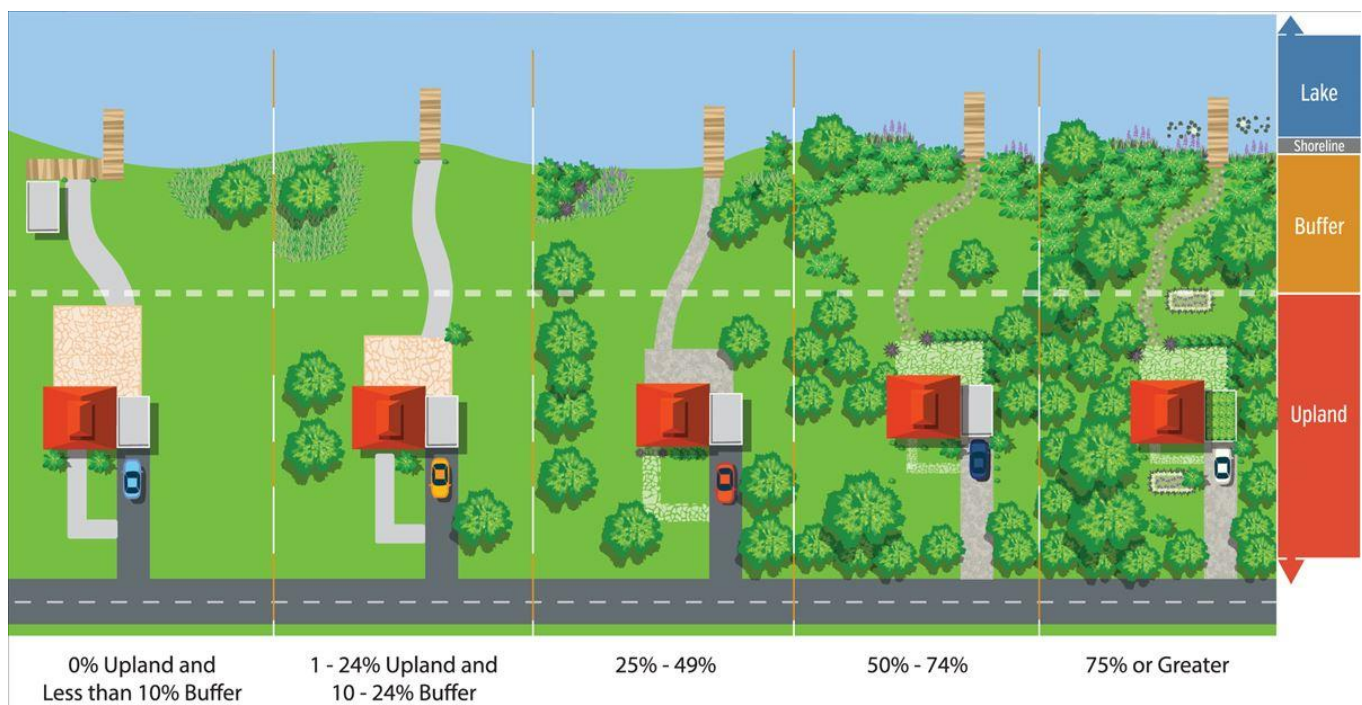
-- Nancy Vanderworp

## LAKE STEWARDSHIP

How well are YOU protecting our lakes? Most of us think we're doing a good job of protecting Crystal and Perch Lakes, but are we really?

Lake LeAnn has been having issues with their lake. They have hired consultants and are working with MSU to improve the water quality and protect their property values by having a thriving lake. This project is focused on their shoreline to improve the natural filtration for a cleaner lake.

We have been fortunate with the leadership of Bob Conn and Dave Vanderworp to help manage the lifeblood of our lake community. But it's more than the lake manager that can affect the quality of Crystal and Perch Lakes... it is all of us that need to do our part to help keep our lakes healthy.



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## LAKE STEWARDSHIP, continued

You can find out how your property footprint contributes to our lake health by taking the online **MICHIGAN SHORELANDS SURVEY**: (15 min)

1. Just go to: [www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org) and click “Rate Your Shoreland” to take the survey. This can be done anonymously or you can register if you wish. \*\* You may click directly on the link within the electronic version of the newsletter to go to the survey! \*\*
2. Then answer a short list of questions, such as:
  - Do you maintain a natural barrier between your lawn and the shoreline?
  - Do you maintain your septic system properly, having it serviced and pumped-out every three to five years?
  - Are you taking steps to prevent erosion near the shoreline?

### FUN AND EASY!

- Those of us who’ve taken the survey find it fun and informative.
- High scores are given a Bronze, Silver, or Gold rating, if you are into that kind of thing.
- Above all, you can learn a lot about how to protect our lakes and your property value.

### IMPORTANCE:

- Learn how to prevent erosion along the **Shoreline Zone**.
- Get a better understand of the importance of trees and native plants in a wide **Buffer Zone**.
- See the connection between hard surfaces in the **Upland Zone** and increase runoff going into the lake.

### BENEFITS:

- Learn which PAST actions you’ve taken that protect our lakes.
- Get customized recommendations for which NEW actions you can take to do an even better job.
- This survey is full of background information, definitions, and tips, which will answer almost any question you have about what beneficial shorelands look like.
- Our lakes will be better off when many of our homeowners take action to improve their property.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Somerset Township Special Assessment (SAD) Public Hearing** – September 16, 2021 at 7:00

**Fall Membership Meeting** – October 9, 2021 from 10:00 to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 – tentative location of Somerset Township Meeting Room

**Online Foundation Auction** – October 16, 2021, more details to follow!

**Spring Membership Meeting** – April 23, 2022 from 10:00 to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 – tentative location of Somerset Township Meeting Room

**Summer Membership Meeting** – July 9, 2022 from 10:00 to 12 noon, coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 – tentative location of Somerset Township Meeting Room

**Summer Picnic** – July 10, 2022 at 11:30 – McCourtie Park

We will update this Calendar of Events throughout 2022 when additional activities can safely be planned.