



Cognashene Cottagers' Association

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You can find us at www.cognashene.com for contact information, registration forms, events and dates.

Follow us on:

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Twitter @ CCARecProgram

Watch for your next CCA Newsletter coming early in the New Year.

President's Message

Ian Davis: president@cognashene.com

I have just returned from Townsend Island after completing the annual fall closing rituals, the most important being, draining of the plumbing system. Lessons from past close-ups have hopefully been implemented; only spring will tell! Like most final weekends, the weather does not always cooperate and this year was no exception. Just as we (# 2 son William) were preparing to tackle the pump and water intake, a squall line from the south passed over Townsend Island. While the rain was relatively short lived, it was just hard and long enough to wet the lichen and create conditions requiring more than an old pair of top siders to navigate our steep shoreline. With the copper lines drained, boats put away, pump in the sink, and hydro off, we said goodbye to the Bay for another season.

This past year, and in particular this past summer, marked a number of community and historical milestones for Cognashene and Georgian Bay. As a community we celebrated our 100th anniversary as an Association. The "party" took place both on

Townsend Island and in the back bay. The celebrations, while modest monetarily, were extravagant for our Association. We thank those who responded to our call for donations and in particular, Maple Leaf Foods and the McCain Family for feeding the kids and parents alike. After a snack of "juicy jumbos", everyone went home and for those who returned for the fireworks, the full moon and Neil Young's "Harvest Moon" in the background, they were treated to one of those special Cognashene nights that we store in our memories to get through the long winter months. We are very fortunate as a community to have members who share with us their time and skills, selflessly. A special thanks to Nancy Bennett and her committee of volunteers who made this evening so memorable.

Margaret Eaton, and her mob of volunteers, must also be congratulated for running a most successful Regatta. This past year marked Margaret's final year managing this annual event. I would like to personally thank Margaret for her enthusiasm and dedication to our community. While we say goodbye to Margaret, we welcome Jacqueline Limoges in organizing our 91st Regatta, again scheduled for Townsend Island in August 2016.

I cannot complete my Regatta narrative without thanking the Merry, Reade and Chubaty families for not joining forces in the defence of their 2014 canoe fives victory, and yes, congratulate the "Davis boys" in their first place finish.

Kelly Reade, Laura Hilliard and the staff of the recreation program must once again be recognized for the invaluable contribution they make to ensuring the continuing interest of the young people of Cognashene in swimming programs, sailing and arts & crafts. The recreation program is the cornerstone of our community and for many participants, the renewal or the beginning of lifelong cottage friendships.

2015 was the year of the Phragmites. Sandy Thompson and Bob Snider mobilized, mapped and educated the membership in spotting and removal of this shoreline enemy. You can expect ongoing communication on this subject.

Your Board has been working on a number of new initiatives thanks to the ingenuity of Brian Neely and the vision of John Maynard, Chris Hawley and

Derek Friend. This year we will be launching an enhanced winter patrol. Brian will share in more detail the new program in this newsletter. I have witnessed how it will work, and while my father would describe the end result as nothing short of "witchcraft", you will be amazed with this new service. My thanks to Brian in executing so quickly an idea that was only hatched in early August.

I encourage you to check out our website for upcoming events and membership information. www.cognashene.com

I would like to thank the remaining Board members all their efforts that often go without recognition, but are invaluable to the running of our Association; you make my job that much easier.

As always, please do not hesitate to send me an email should you wish to comment on how the Board is being managed or should you wish to participate more actively.

You can reach me at president@cognashene.com.

Communications Update...eBlasts, Newsletter & The Cottager

Laura Adams: communications@cognashene.com

It's that time of year again when I ask all those who pulled their camera or smart phone out during any summer Cognashene event, to think about sending their photos along to me for next years Cottager. There was a lot to celebrate over the summer of 2015, and for that very reason I am hoping that the 2016 Cottager will be a particularly special keepsake. Deadline for photo and story submissions is Sunday January 31st; feel free to send along anytime though. Also, if you or anyone you know would like to advertise in the Cottager, our rates are great, and the book gets passed to a lot of eyeballs.

This next edition of **The Cognashene Cottager** will be particularly special for me, as this will be my last as Editor. Hayley Thomas has graciously offered to take the reigns for 2017. Many thanks Hayley!

I will however remain the sender of your informational eBlasts and editor of your CCA Newsletter. Please continue to send along anything that you would like to share with your fellow cottagers.

Our next **Newsletter** will be out in early February, so if you have anything you want to share, please let me know. If immediacy is important, our **eBlasts** go out on a continual basis.

Don't forget, we also have a Facebook presence, and a twitter feed for the Rec Program.

You can reach me at communications@cognashene.com or personally at lauraeadams@sympatico.ca. Have a happy winter!

Communications Update...Website

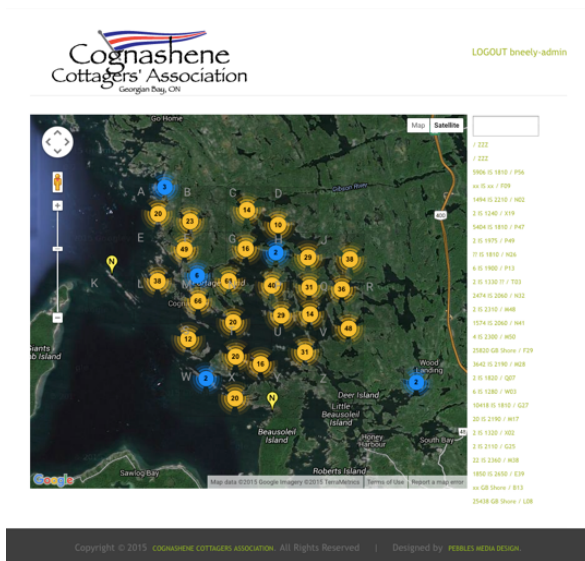
Brian Neely: communications@cognashene.com

Lots of cool stuff happening on our website. I'd like to update you on 2 key projects we have been working on over the summer months.

Mapping:

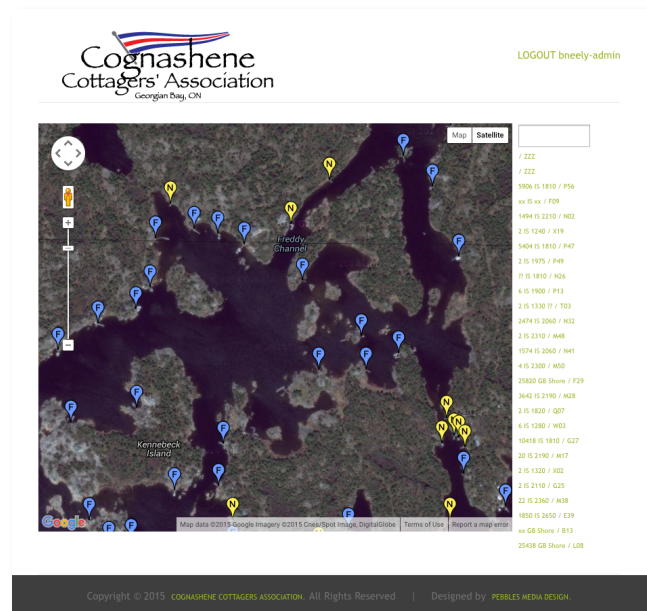
At the AGM I mentioned we were working on revising our cottagers map, specifically with GPS co-ordinates for cottage location and overlaying this on a new map format. I am happy to report this has been completed and then some. There will be 2 types of map available; one that we can print and hand out to members identifying all member's cottage locations, and the second that will be available for viewing by members only via the web site.

Because the web site is near and dear to my heart, I'm going to focus on this, and illustrate the digital mapping that will be available through your profile page. I have taken screen shots from our web site to demonstrate.



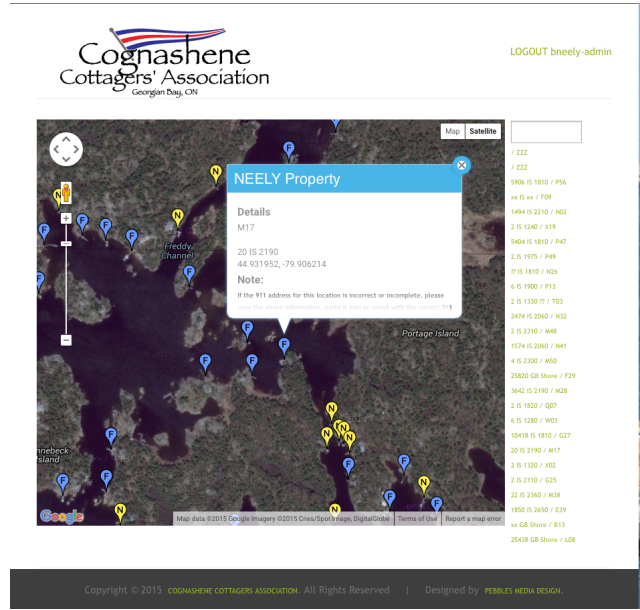
This first screen shot shows Cognashene at a high level. Identified is the alphabetic mapping grid you are familiar with from our old cottagers map. It also highlights the number of members in each quadrant.

By clicking on one of the quadrants, the map zooms in to identify the cottages within that specific area or grid. The cottage locaters identify a cottage as either F or N – F for full member, N for non member. We have mapped all locations with GPS co-ordinates with a view to emergency services. Each cottage locator is set at the end of the dock where it meets the shore.



By moving your mouse over a cottage locator and clicking, the members name appears with their map location information, island number and GPS co-ordinates. Non members information simply identifies the island number and GPS location.

All the information is linked to our membership database so we can cross reference for future projects.



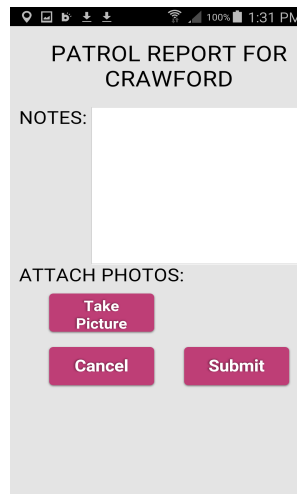
Our hats are off to **John Maynard**, who did most of the heavy lifting on this mapping initiative. Thank you John for your time and effort.

Winter Patrol, our second project:

Building on the success of last years winter cottage picture program, we have designed and built an APP that combines photography with a report, and is all linked through our database. The APP, which has been loaded on Denis’s new phone, allows us to send you an email (photo’s and report) of your winter patrol visit, as Denis is doing his rounds. It also sends a copy to your profile page where you can view it anytime.

Here’s how it works.

First we linked bar codes to each member within our database. Then we produced new 3”x 5” laminated Winter Patrol member specific cards that Denis will attach to the appropriate cottages.



Using the APP, Denis scans the bar code and is presented with this page on his phone. By tapping “Notes” he uses speech to text and records his observation. He then taps on “Take a Picture” and takes the required number of pictures to demonstrate what he has found.

Once finished, he taps on submit and the report including pictures will be emailed to that member's email address listed in the database. A copy is also saved on the members profile page.

Here is a sample Winter Patrol notification email and web site report.

From: Support <no-reply@cognashene.com>
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:12 AM
To: Brian Neely <bneely@rogers.com>
Subject: Cognashene Cottager's Association Winter Patrol Check In

Dear Brian & Diane Neely,

This patrol report has been submitted to:

<http://www.cognashene.com/members/check-in/listing>

On 2015-10-19 12:13:58:

Winter Cottage Patrol October 19th test, one day of snow then it all melted the next day...just kidding, this is a picture of a picture taken two years ago. This is just a test.



Thank you.

The Cognashene Cottagers' Association

While I fully expect there will be some clichés and software modification required as we launch this new service, we are very excited about bringing this enhanced service for our members.

I look forward to your feedback and seeing you at the next AGM. Have a great winter.

As always, any questions, comments or suggestions regarding your website can be sent to communications@cognashene.com

The Church on the Rocks

This past summer, the Cognashene Community Church was blessed with beautiful Sunday mornings and a full roster of thought-provoking and heartwarming services. If it's been a while since you've been to a service at the Church on the Rocks – or if you've never had the chance to join us – it may surprise you to find out that we average almost 90 people per service! Young and old come together to take a moment to recharge their souls and enjoy the fellowship of one another. Most would attest to the fact that there is something special about gathering to worship outdoors amidst the granite and pines.



Services begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. and run about one hour. Attire is “Georgian Bay casual” so you needn't worry about a jacket and tie to join us. After the offering is taken up, the children head to the deck to create Sunday school crafts. The crafts change every Sunday and a schedule of the weekly craft can be found on the shed at the Church site. The crafts have proven very popular with the kids, as well as with parents and grandparents who are given some quieter time to reflect on the sermon. And, of course, following the service everyone is invited to grab a glass of lemonade and catch up with friends.

All Cognashene cottagers are invited to visit the Tranquility Garden – a quiet place of reflection with a beautiful curving granite wall that bears plaques honouring community members who have passed. If you would like to add a plaque to the wall, please contact Rob Thompson.

Through the generosity of our congregation, the Church is able to make several charitable donations each year. This past year, we donated a total of \$5,000 to three local charities: Midland Hospital Trauma Unit (\$2,000), Salvation Army Midland (\$1,500) and the Coldwater Food Bank (\$1,500) that also services Honey Harbour.

This Fall, we will be pulling out the old stilt dock and replacing it next Spring with a new one. As cottagers know only too well, this is an expensive endeavour. If you would like to donate to the Church Dock Fund, please contact me at the email below.

Wishing you a safe and happy winter. Until we see you next Spring.

Caroline Coulson-Shibley
President, Cognashene Community Church



Environment...The Other Invasive Species

Sandy Thompson: Environment@cognashene.com

We have talked about Phragmites a lot this summer so this is not about Phragmites (phew!) But it is about invasive species as Phragmites is only one of many that are a concern for Georgian Bay and Ontario. Asian Carp, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Dog Strangling Vine, Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard, Round Goby... any of these sound familiar? All of these are on the Ontario Invasive Species list (there are 30 on there).

Most invasive species migrate to a new region through bilge water (phragmites and zebra mussels) or through well intentioned planting or accidental releases into new water systems. Often ornamental plants are chosen for gardens because they are tall, or beautiful, or turn a lovely colour red in the fall; if they are not native to our area, then they can become a problem. Planting these in your garden in the city or homes may not be an issue as our gardens are often fairly well contained and we tend them regularly; but on the Islands, plants can be a bit more 'wild'. Choosing native species for your gardens (at home and the cottage) is the best way to stop the spread of invasive plants.



Garlic Mustard (left photo) is an invasive species and can outcompete trilliums and other native flowers. Miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* & *M. sacchariflorus*) (right photo) is said to be the next Phragmites as it is spreading from ornamental gardens.

Aquatic Species like the Round Goby and Asian Carp (includes the species of Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Grass Carp, and Black Carp) are also a danger to the biodiversity of our waters. You might have heard of the extraordinary measures that the US Army Corp of Engineers has gone to in an effort to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes by installing electric control barriers in Chicago at an estimated cost of more than \$15B. Unfortunately, Asian Carp DNA has been found in the Great Lakes (maybe it got there through a bird dropping a fish?), including at least 5 in the Toronto region. Asian carp have decimated populations of native fish species in the rivers and lakes they have colonized in the upper US States.

While we may not be able to stop all of the invasive species, there are some simple things that we as stewards of the Bay can do to help.

What can you do?

- Know what the invasive species in Ontario are and keep an eye out for them (It's ok not to be an expert on all 30+)
- Research what you are planting in your garden at home and the cottage. There are great resources that will show you similar native species to plant. Be cautious about importing soil onto the Islands.
- Clean your boats and fishing gear so as not to transfer species to new locations.
- Don't dump your bait! It is illegal to dump baitfish within 30m of any Ontario waterway. Put it in the garbage.
- Know your bait - young Asian carp can look like common Ontario minnows. It is illegal to own or use an invasive species in Ontario; it is an anglers' responsibility to know what they are fishing with.
- Report invasive species you see to the MOEECC and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by calling 1-800-563-7711. You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously (1-800-222-TIPS(8477))

There are numerous resources to get information and factsheets about Invasive Species as well as native plants:

- <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/invasive-species-in-ontario>
- <http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/miscanthus/> [this website has links to the "Grow Me Instead" brochures.]

The Georgian Bay Osprey Society

"The Georgian Bay Osprey Society has been around since its founding in 1986 and it has been a diligent champion for the Osprey as its population recovers in our area as well as the rest of the Georgian Bay.

For the past several years we have had the benefit of the knowledge and experience of Rick Miller as our Chief Monitor and researcher. His work, on our behalf, has been significant in helping us understand what is happening and why.

Recently, Rick passed away. This is a great loss to his family and the science community.

It has also left the GBOS with rather big shoes to fill. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the GBOS Team in the capacity as Chief Monitor or if you feel you can assist in other ways please let me know.

Stephen Jarvis

President, Georgian Bay Osprey Society

stephen.jarvis@sympatico.ca"



Recreation Program Update

Kelly Reade & Laura Hilliard: recprogram@cognashene.com



2015 was an excellent summer on the beach! Although the beach was a *bit* smaller, our camp enrollment numbers were larger! Reconnecting with our summer besties and meeting new families always makes for a fun and exciting time at the beach for everyone!

This past spring, the beach was given a facelift; with a new swim raft, swim ladder, lane ropes, markers and a weatherproof bulletin board. These improvements were enjoyed by all of the campers.

Our instructors; Anne Hughes, Alex Carter, Aislin and Conner Roth, Molly and Jack Giroux, Leigh-Ann McKnight, Nikki Cutler, Katie Tawaststjerna,

Haley Walker all worked really well together even when having to endure the sometimes challenging weather elements that Georgian Bay has to offer. Everyone provided outstanding swim lessons, exciting Camp Cognashene days, entertaining Camp Kinder craft days and two fun-filled overnight camping trips (seniors went to the Musquash and the juniors went to the Stocking island) that were enjoyed by all. Of course all of this would not be possible without our amazing and super dedicated volunteers!

A big thank you to Laura Hilliard for all her hard work and countless hours dedicated to the program over the past two years. She has made this job easier for all future directors by putting in place some solid behind the scene changes. Cheri Wilson will be working with me to plan the 2016 summer and eventually take over as the future Recreation Director.

This year the CCA Recreation program is going back to the basics by adding more paddling, sailing, kayaking and possibly rowing to the weekly programming. We would also like to involve the community more; this may be as a guest speaker or sharing unique cottage type skills in a workshop setting. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Applications for next summer's staff and volunteer positions will be accepted from now until January 1st, 2016. All hiring will be completed by mid-February. If you are a motivated, organized, and energetic high school or university student who enjoys working with kids, then this is the job for you! Please apply online at: http://www.cognashene.com/rec_program_apply.html

No survey will be conducted this fall however, we would love to hear from new or returning families about their summer at the beach. Please feel free to contact myself with any thoughts or comments at:

RECPROGRAM@COGNASHENE.COM

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@CCARecProgram) or Facebook (Cognashene Recreation Program).



The Beach

Anne Hughes

With the cold and wet weather now upon us, I am drawn to think about the wonderful summer we had at the beach. Despite some rainy and stormy days, the summer was still as amazing as always.

We were lucky to be able to have a wonderful group of staff and volunteers who made everything possible. I can honestly say our summer would not have been as successful as it was without them there to organize and run everything.

The format of the program remained very similar as in past years. We included many favourite activities from years past as well as many new crafts, activities and trips. We offered all our Red Cross swim levels and Bronze Lifeguarding levels this summer. All the swimmers worked very hard and made great improvements. I would like to congratulate all the Bronze Med and Cross students who successfully passed their exams at the end of the summer. We continued to offer the YPOC program, full day Camp Cognashene (although it was rained out more days than not), Watersports and Kognashene Kinders. Some highlights include tie dying, the Cog Rec Olympics, the Amazing Race, dress up a counsellor and many wonderful YPOC trips to places such as the Tomb, the Bluff, Honey Harbour for ice cream, McCrae Lake and hiking on Beausoleil. We would like to thank the GBLT for holding an educational day with us, working around the rain to create an engaging program for all involved. We also ran both a junior and senior canoe trip, which were very fun for both campers and staff. The summer concluded with our zoo animal beach party! Feel free to go on our Facebook page to watch the summer slideshow, which has many more amazing memories.

I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm. I would also like to thank all the parents for the help and support they provided us to run a truly phenomenal summer. Most importantly, I would like to thank Laura and Kelly for being such amazing directors. They made sure that everything ran extremely smoothly. There is no way the summer would have been a success without them. They both worked tirelessly to make sure they were wonderful leaders and mentors to us while helping the program expand and welcoming many new families to the beach.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the beach during my two years as head of the program. My job would have been much harder without the support of the beach community. I will always cherish the memories I have made at the beach. Have a wonderful winter!

Long Distance Swim and Regatta 2015

Margaret Eaton-Kent

At the Annual General Meeting in July, I presented a token of gratitude to Rob and Val Thompson for originating and hosting the Long Distance Swim since 1989, and for the help and support they have extended to me for the past three years. I am sure they will continue to support my successor for next year, and Co-Coordinator this year, Jacqueline Limoges.

The 2015 Swim also had a new and wonderful development, a new turnaround point graciously hosted by David Hopper and John Visser, at their handsome dock and the beach of their new flat roof cottage at Manitou Point. Welcome to Cognashene, and thank-you! The new turnaround point allows greater safety to the swimmers, as they do not have to leave the bay, and much greater convenience for the organizers, who do not have to tow a dock or anchor it to a shoal. We certainly hope that David and John continue to welcome the Swim at their place between the Metherells and Birnbaums.

Weather radar is a wonderful thing. Although the forecast for Saturday July 25th was for a threat of thunderstorm, the radar showed the skies would remain storm-free. As only lightening storms will call off or delay the Long Distance Swim, it went ahead at 1 pm. Although clouds built south of Cognashene, we had only a few sprinkles of rain, early on, the wind switching from southwest to west and then back, but continuing light. The air temperature was 25 degrees and the water 23 degrees. The calm conditions encouraged several multiple crossings, including a quadruple! The spotters also did a splendid job, including a demonstration of the most expedient way to get out of a kayak (dump it)! Jacqueline and I counted thirty-seven swimmers who swam all or part of the way, including the youngest swimmer I have seen, age five, a father-daughter team who swam doubles, and a married couple who also swam doubles!

The 2016 Long Distance Swim will take place Saturday July 23, at 1 pm, rain or shine!

The 90th Regatta of the Cognashene Cottagers Association was blessed with beautiful weather, excellent attendance, spectacular Raffle results, and many Champions! The Regatta was followed by a BBQ, bonfire, and amazing fireworks, organized by Nancy Bennett to celebrate 100 years of the CCA! I think she also organized the orange moon to rise behind the fireworks while Neil Young's song, Harvest Moon, was playing over the water! Perfect!

Thank-you once again for the preparation and support of the Regatta to our hosts: the Kohlers, Davis families and Endresses.

In spite of a forecast on the Thursday before, calling for thunderstorms, the weather co-operated and we had a perfect day! The teams of volunteers, who actually run the Regatta, all did their part to ensure a great day for the participants. This included using more floats to make the boat finish line more obvious. Children of all ages enthusiastically participated, although there was a small push to raise the age of Older Masters (now at 30)! Nevertheless, everyone had fun, the races ran well, and smoothly, thanks to the excellent race starters, and also to the great boat holders and rescue boats crew, who were kept busy due to the moderate west wind. We had the most unusual result of a three way tie for Boy Champion! One special Girl Champion will keep the Trophy all year. All first place winners in the three age groups enjoyed receiving paddles donated by the Honey Harbour Boat Club. The winners of names drawn from the 2-3 and 4-6 Swims received lifejackets, also from the Boat Club. Once again, a port-a-potti was donated by Denis Robitaille, although this year we had two port-a-potties to accommodate the BBQ.

To celebrate the 90th Regatta, we had a number of special items and donations from our generous sponsors. The ribbons were printed to include "90th Annual", extra Participant ribbons (with a few sweets) were handed out, activity books were awarded to swimmers drawn from the 2-3 and 4-6 Swims, and a wonderful child-size finished Muskoka chair was awarded to the very youngest participant! Our sponsors were especially generous with donations of Raffle items, and the results were indeed spectacular, thanks to the organization and enthusiasm of the Raffle team and ticket sellers, and the wonderful response of all the ticket purchasers! Thanks to everyone, the Regatta was again self-funded, we participated in funding some of the CCA 100 events, and still were able to make a donation of \$598 to the CCA for the Recreation Program! Thank-you so much!

Because the specially designed 90th Regatta Volunteer t-shirts and hoodies in the Raffle were much admired, it was decided to offer a special order of T-shirts and hoodies to the CCA membership, courtesy of Larry Uniac. This was done on email, thanks to Nancy Bennett, and e-blast, thanks to Laura Adams. The items were offered at near cost, with sufficient response to forward \$221 net to the CCA.

Thank-you all for another fine Regatta!

Classified

Looking for a Good Home

12' Aluminum (no leaks)

6HP (runs beautifully)

\$800.00 (OBO)

Please contact Susanna Ferguson @ susannaferguson@hotmail.com



Wishing you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful winter!

