



SUMMER 2024

Message from the CCA President

Ah, the signs of summer are upon us: the docks are in, the water is turned on, the fridge is full, the fishing poles are ready, the bugs are back... and the hum of excitement is in the air. Welcome back, everyone! It's time to dive into another unforgettable summer at Catchacoma Lake.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank-you to all who joined the CCA during our spring membership drive. Your support is critical to the success of our association. For those who haven't yet secured their 2024 membership, head over to CatchacomaLake.com to sign up. For added convenience, you can now pay for multiple years and obtain membership until 2026.

As we celebrate CCA's 76th year, it's a testament to the unwavering dedication of our board of directors, past and present. These volunteers are tirelessly working behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. From buoy maintenance to newsletter distribution, organizing the beloved CCA DockFest to keeping our lake pristine, their efforts are truly commendable.

At the heart of our mission is fostering a sense of community, and there's no better way to do so than with our upcoming CCA Dockfest on August 3 at Catchacoma Marina. It's a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and all-around good vibes. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, have a hamburger, enjoy live music, ask a question about invasive species, sit in a fire truck, see local art, get your face painted, buy a CCA membership, buy a book about our

history, visit the Marina store and much more. It's a celebration of everything that makes Catchacoma Lake so special.

We also want to give a big shoutout to the Catchacoma Marina Group for their invaluable support. Their generosity provides us with essential resources and a venue for our community events. We're immensely grateful for our partnership with them.

So, as we embark on another summer adventure, let's revel in the beauty and wonder of our lake. Together, as cottagers and friends, let's make memories that will last a lifetime. Here's to a summer filled with laughter, sunshine and the magic of Catchacoma Lake!

– Ric Mackey, CCA President

2024 CCA Board Members

- Ric Mackey, President
- Joe Natale, Past-President
- Richard Watson, Vice-President
- Steve Scott, Treasurer
- Scott Hayzelden, Secretary
- Marnie Welch, Membership
- Ted Spence, Lake Stewardship, CCRAI & CEWF Liaison
- Jason Card, Buoy Master
- Dave Curtis, Marina Liaison
- Jack Millar, Lake Stewardship
- Mitty Van Der Velden, Government Liaison
- Cristina Natale, Director at Large

BECOME A CCA MEMBER!

Your membership fees help support our many activities on the lake, including:

- Buoy program
- Lake stewardship
- DockFest
- Website, newsletters and emails
- Membership in organizations such as FOCA, CCRAI and CEWF



You get all of these benefits for only \$30 per year!

Visit our website to find out more and to purchase your membership.

www.catchacomalake.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Sailboat Races...** Jun 30, Aug 4, Sep 1, 2 pm start, Geale Island
- Classic Cars "Cruise Night"...** Tuesday evenings, Buckhorn Community Centre
- Mattress Collection...** July 13 & 14 Cavendish Transfer Station
- Carnival Day...** July 20, 9 – 3 Cavendish Community Centre
- CCA DockFest...** Aug 3, Noon – 4 Catchacoma Marina
- Buckhorn Art Festival...** Aug 17 & 18 Buckhorn Community Centre
- Harvest Craft Show...** Oct 12 & 13 Buckhorn Community Centre

Capturing Winter Runoff Key to Maintaining System Water Levels

At the time of writing in early June, our lake water level is very close to normal. However, this is the result of intensive water management across the entire Trent Basin this past spring.

Beginning last September and continuing through to March 2024, no month received its normal precipitation. In addition, we had winter rainfall events and warm temperatures that resulted in significant snow melt. At Catchacoma, we had almost no snowpack remaining in many areas in early January. Last November, our water levels were low enough that Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) actually added logs to our dam for a period to restore normal winter levels and protect trout spawn.

The Parks Canada Water Management Team monitors water levels on a continuous basis with records sent to the Peterborough office continuously from all dams on the system. They also have automatic precipitation gauges reporting and they do weekly snow surveys at several sites across the basin each week in winter.

In mid-February this year, surveys showed that the snowpack in the reservoir area was only 50% or less of normal and in the lower Trent there was almost no snowpack in many areas. As a result they made the exceptional decision to begin replacing logs in dams throughout the system to try to capture the runoff from precipitation and melt events. On Catchacoma, that meant that our water levels began to rise in late February and through March, about a month earlier than normal. This was in spite of the fact that February and March precipitation totals were well below normal levels at 35% and 59% respectively. Similar water level changes extended across the whole Trent watershed as TSW efforts to capture the available flows paid off. At most dams this meant frequent log adjustments to manage precipitation events and levels.

Then in April we had almost 160% of our normal rainfall and 125% in May. This allowed TSW to fill the entire system in time for opening the navigation season on the May holiday weekend as mandated. It also required intensive level and flow management to



Visit our website to find the link for the most current data: catchacomalake.com/cottage-living/water-levels

avoid ending up with too much water in the wake of significant rainfall events. On several occasions flood watches were announced as excess water was passed through the Kawartha Lakes, the Otonabee and the Trent Rivers downstream.

All of the reservoirs, including our lake chain, benefited from the TSW attention over winter and their decision to begin dam operation at least a month ahead of normal. Focused efforts continue

as we have been receiving significant rainfall events which have the potential to overflow the system at this time of year when the lakes are near full. TSW has been making frequent adjustments to the logs in our dam to hold levels near normal.

We must acknowledge the outstanding work of the Water Management Team in a year where we risked having record low water levels to start the season.

Water Quality Stable on Catchacoma Lake

There are two water quality testing programs that CCA supports each year.

First, the Kawartha Highlands Water Quality Testing is undertaken by Trent University's Trent Aquatic Research Program (TARP). The data covers six variables and about 30 lakes in our area. This allows us to compare results with other lakes and with long-term average conditions.

CCA participates in two programs that monitor lake water quality

The current report is based on the water sampling program completed in August, 2023. For Catchacoma Lake, the report shows only minor variations from recent years. The water quality is stable in Catchacoma and in most of our lakes. Readers are encouraged to look at the report (available on our website)

and compare the Catchacoma results to nearby lakes particularly those that flow into Catchacoma (Anstruther, Pencil and Bottle Lakes). The actual variables and measurements are explained in the TARP Water Quality Primer Report 2021 which is also posted on the CCA website.

The second program is the volunteer Lake Partner program organized by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MOECP) and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA). These results can be found on the FOCA website at foca.on.ca but there may be a significant delay in posting. The 2023 results are consistent with past years.



Recognizing Local Environmental Hero Ted Spence

Not all heroes wear capes. Our own local hero Ted Spence is more likely to be seen wearing a PFD and zooming around Catchacoma Lake in his kayak. For many years, Ted has acted as Lake Steward for the CCA and we are fortunate to have his expertise, experience and commitment on our board.

Ted believes local action is critical when it comes to protecting our waterways. Because of that, he became involved in the CCA and the Cavendish Community Ratepayers Association Inc. (CCRAI). Since 2015, he has chaired the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) and represents the reservoir lakes with Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). Ted was active with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) including being president for three years. He is a member of the Shoreline Conservation Initiative for Peterborough County, Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee, Stakeholder Groups for the Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park... and the list goes on.

Recently, Ted was appointed to Trent Lakes' Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) as a citizen member and became its chair. "It is early days for the EAC but I think over time it will make a difference to our lakes," he says.

Ted's interest in the environment was evident from an early age when he chose to study Geography, with an emphasis on the Environment, at University of Western Ontario (BS,



Ted loves kayaking around the north end of Catchacoma, touring the chain of lakes on his WaveRunner and socializing with his McKee Island neighbours.

MSc) and University of Alberta (PhD). During his 40 years as a professor at York University, including ten years as dean of the faculty of Environmental Studies, Ted was active in numerous scholarly and community activities related to environmental protection.

As CCA Lake Steward, Ted monitors shoreline protection issues, threats from invasive species, as well as water levels and quality. He stays on top of the latest research by working collaboratively with groups such as TSW, governmental agencies and Trent University. Ted regularly reports to the CCA Board and members to help us all stay informed on these important issues. And he's

helping to mentor the next generation of environmental stewards by working with Trent University student and new CCA board member Jack Millar.

So if you see Ted at the marina during DockFest in August, we suggest you introduce yourself and thank him for his tireless efforts. And while you're at it, ask him about his latest projects. After all, getting to know our lake neighbours is what DockFest is all about.

At a time of global and local environmental concern, we need to show our appreciation for one neighbour who is doing more than his share to protect our lake. Thank you, Ted, for all you do. You're our hero.

A promotional graphic for DockFest 2024. It features a yellow background with a string of colorful triangular bunting flags at the top. On the left, there are two circular inset photos: the top one shows a woman in a white shirt and a man in a blue shirt talking, and the bottom one shows a man playing a guitar on a stage. A circular logo in the top left corner says "CATCHACOMA DOCKFEST Fun, Family, Friends COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION". The main text reads "CCA presents... DOCKFEST 2024 Saturday, August 3 • Noon to 4 Catchacoma Marina". Below this, there are two columns of activities, each preceded by a blue star icon: "Live Band", "Barbecue", "Local Artisans" on the left, and "Information Booths", "Face Painting", "Fire Truck" on the right.

Available Now at
Catchacoma Marina



Catchacoma Island Names Provide Glimpse into Lake's History

On some lakes, islands bear names that reflect their unique features, like Rock Island, Turtle Island or Big Island. On Catchacoma Lake, the island names tell stories of the lake's history and origins.

Back in the early 1900s, because of the local lumbering trade, Catchacoma Lake became known for its abundant wildlife. This resulted in various hunting and fishing camps setting up along its shores. For example, on the east shore, the Ketchecum Hunt Camp (KHC) boasted that they had the so-called "movers and shakers" of Peterborough, while on the west shore, there was the Cochrane Hunt Camp. It was common for members of each to visit the other's camp and socialize. This camaraderie and the enjoyment of the beautiful outdoors created a special appreciation for Catchacoma Lake.

Gladman/Biggar Islands

In the south end of Catchacoma are a pair of small islands. They were purchased by Charles Gladman and his wife Muriel in the late 1920s. Charles knew the lake from his time as a member of the Ketchecum Hunt Club. He and his wife hired three skilled carpenters from Finland who built them a cozy log cottage in 1933. This cottage is still enjoyed today by the Biggar family who bought the islands from the Gladmans in 1955.

Haywood, Eddis, Morrow and Comstock Islands

In 1917, Peterborough's former mayor, George Morrow, embarked on a canoe adventure with his pals, Arthur (Spike) Haywood and brothers Wyndham and Charles Eddis. They paddled (upstream!) from their Stony Lake cottages to Catchacoma Lake. They were guided by Morrow's fond memories of hunting and fishing with the KHC. Little did they know this trip would lead to the acquisition of their own islands on Catchacoma Lake. In addition to Haywood Island, Arthur Haywood also wanted to purchase the small neighbouring island, but was thwarted by a, in his opinion, too-high survey cost. Upon hearing this, John Comstock, brother of KHC member Manson Comstock, stepped in and bought the island for \$20.



To commemorate the 100th anniversary of island ownership, the Eddis family embarked on a journey to retrace the route of their ancestors. Setting off from Stony Lake, they paddled towards Catchacoma but had to abandon their endeavour after reaching the challenging currents of the Mississaugua River. They were left marvelling at the determination of their family members who had successfully completed the journey a century earlier.

Both the Eddis and Haywood families still own their respective islands. The Comstock family made the decision to sell their island following the unfortunate destruction of their cottage by a fire caused by lightning in 1968. The island was purchased and is still owned by the Wilson family from Pennsylvania. Morrow Island also changed hands and was purchased by Dr. U. N. Jones around 1945. His family has subsequently enjoyed summers on the island for nearly eight decades.

McKee Island

John McKee, a surveyor and member of the Cochrane Hunt Camp, bought his island in 1907. Around 1920, in an effort to open up more of Catchacoma to the public, the Crown hired McKee to survey lots along the west shore. McKee's contributions were commemorated by the naming of McKee Avenue. John McKee died in 1931. Peterborough County took over the island for back taxes in 1946, eventually selling it to a group of Americans.

Peck/Geale Island

Edward Armour Peck, a founding KHC member, made his own mark in 1911 by acquiring an 11-acre island at the incredible price of \$1 an acre. This sanctuary provided him respite from his busy days as a lawyer and Peterborough's member of parliament. Originally called Peck Island it was renamed Geale Island in 1924 after Peck gave it to his adopted son, Norman Geale, for his wedding. Norman's son Charles and his family still cherish this island retreat.

Lillico Island/Ackerman's Point

During a deer hunt in the 1940s, Ivan Lillico from the Cochrane camp, paddled across to visit the Ketchecum Hunt Club and soon found himself enjoying a game of gin rummy with KHC member William Ackerman. At that time, Ackerman owned the island to the north of the club and, not knowing that Lillico was a consummate card player, wagered the island on the outcome of the game. Lillico family legend has it that Ivan acquired the island as a result. Today the island is called Lillico Island though you may find a few people that still affectionately refer to it as Ackerman's Point.

There you have it, the stories behind the names of Catchacoma's islands. They remind us of a unique history that blends the past with the present adding a timeless charm to our beautiful lake.



Catchacoma Cottagers' Association is committed to making environmentally responsible choices including use of 100% post-consumer recycled paper for this newsletter and biodegradable/compostable bags for distribution.



CATCHACOMA
Cottagers' Association

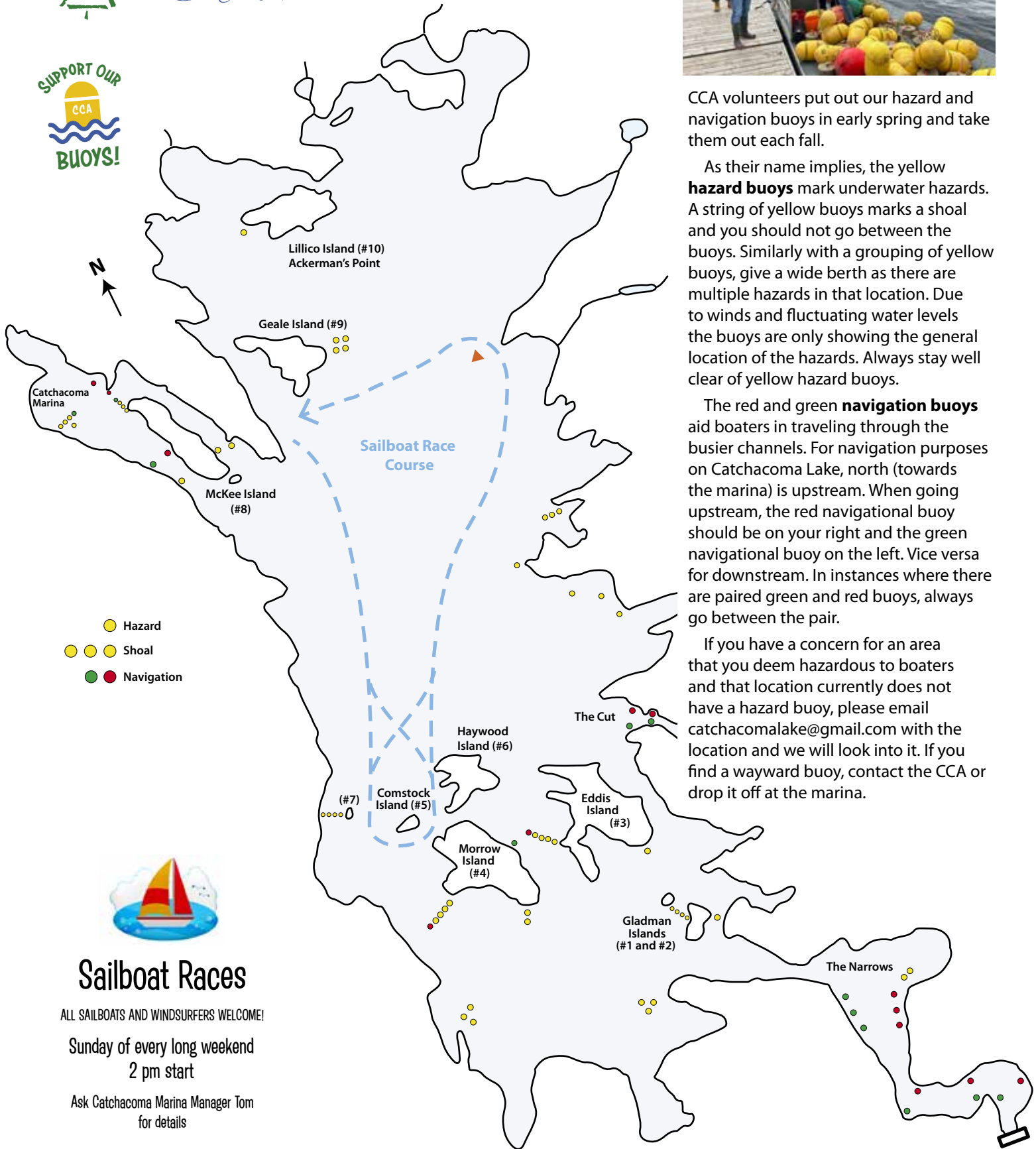


CCA volunteers put out our hazard and navigation buoys in early spring and take them out each fall.

As their name implies, the yellow **hazard buoys** mark underwater hazards. A string of yellow buoys marks a shoal and you should not go between the buoys. Similarly with a grouping of yellow buoys, give a wide berth as there are multiple hazards in that location. Due to winds and fluctuating water levels the buoys are only showing the general location of the hazards. Always stay well clear of yellow hazard buoys.

The red and green **navigation buoys** aid boaters in traveling through the busier channels. For navigation purposes on Catchacoma Lake, north (towards the marina) is upstream. When going upstream, the red navigational buoy should be on your right and the green navigational buoy on the left. Vice versa for downstream. In instances where there are paired green and red buoys, always go between the pair.

If you have a concern for an area that you deem hazardous to boaters and that location currently does not have a hazard buoy, please email catchacomalake@gmail.com with the location and we will look into it. If you find a wayward buoy, contact the CCA or drop it off at the marina.



Sailboat Races

ALL SAILBOATS AND WINDSURFERS WELCOME!

Sunday of every long weekend
2 pm start

Ask Catchacoma Marina Manager Tom
for details

Every effort is made to ensure the buoys are maintained in the correct locations throughout the boating season. The program does not guarantee that buoys that have been deployed haven't moved and unmarked locations of the lake can be safely navigated. The primary responsibility for safe boating is with the operator of the vessel. Catchacoma Cottagers' Association, its directors and volunteers take no responsibility for injury to boaters or damage to boats as a result of contact with navigational hazards.

When Every Second Counts... Know the 911 Protocols

If you have an emergency, call 911 immediately. Local first responders will be informed of the 911 call and are trained for situations such as fire, accidents and medical emergencies. Local first responders are close by and know the area, allowing them to arrive quickly and provide basic life support such as CPR and emergency first aid until paramedics arrive.

In emergency situations, it is crucial for cottagers and guests to know their 911 address. Following the correct protocols not only improves personal safety but also expedites emergency response when every second counts. Here are some tips to help you provide the right information to 911 dispatch.

Road Access Cottages

Each cottage has been designated a unique 911 green number for identification purposes. When reporting an emergency, provide your green number along with the name of your road or fire route and specify that you are in the Municipality of Trent Lakes.

Water Access Only Cottages

For Water Access Only (WAO) cottages, provide your green number when you call and indicate that you are at a WAO cottage on Catchacoma Lake within the Municipality of Trent Lakes.

WAO green numbers are assigned starting from the Bottle Creek dam and increase northward along the east shore to Pencil Creek. First responders are familiar with this numbering system.

Island Cottages

For cottages on islands, provide your green number and specify that you are located on an island on Catchacoma Lake within the Municipality of Trent Lakes. Each island on Catchacoma Lake has been assigned a unique number, which is embedded within the green number. For instance, reporting that the emergency is at "1050 on an island on Catchacoma Lake in the Municipality of Trent Lakes" would inform first responders that the emergency is located on island 10 at cottage 50.



Make sure you and your guests know the emergency number for your cottage. Consider posting this information on the fridge or in another prominent location.

What Phone to Use

If your cottage has a landline, use it during emergencies, as emergency dispatch will automatically receive the address when the call is made. However, if you are calling from a cell phone and are unaware of the 911 address, provide GPS coordinates or use location-specific apps such as "what3words" to assist first responders in locating you.

Thank You to CCA Sponsors!

