



NOV - 2023

FALL NEWSLETTER

PROTECTING

INSPECTING

CONNECTING

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OFFICERS

President
Paul Tabor

Secretary/Treasurer
John (Bo) Hesser
1st Vice President
Lin Schepperly
2nd Vice President
Nina Abnee

ADMINISTRATION

LCIA Manager
Jim Keighley
Financial Manager
Esther Engle
Secretary and Social
Media Manager
Open

DIRECTORS

Deborah Baker Phillips
Susan Pool
Kevin Smith
Steve Kukanza
Anne Royan
Lynn Kukanza
Barb Favret
Ted Hennig

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A cheerful Fall and Happy Holidays to all our members and families!

What a wonderful time of the year to be in Les Cheneaux. The aspens, tamaracks and birch trees did not disappoint hikers. Fishing is still awesome. Duck hunting is just now slowing down. And lots of reports of great deer takes this past week. Be sure to read Mark Engles Fish and Game report.

As December 26 will officially end LCIA's Centennial year, we would like to thank all those who volunteered and contributed to make it so special. To punctuate its importance, our First Vice President, Lin Schepperly and her crew of volunteers put together an outstanding August picnic celebration. And amidst a sell-out crowd, we were able to recognize our long-time management team, Mark and Esther Engle, for their 37 years of outstanding service to LCIA. Much of what we have accomplished for well over a third of our existence can be contributed to the efforts of the Engels.

On that note, making your LCIA purchases for event tickets, donations, annual membership and inspections an easy and hassle-free experience is still a top priority for us. Following an extensive 2-year "launch and learn" of our current MemberPlanet digital platform, we've realized some shortcomings and idiosyncrasies in the software that create a less than stellar experience for you, our members. With the 2-year trial software subscription expiring, we established a special executive committee to investigate alternative membership systems and website updates geared toward making your experience an easy and good one. If you have experience in this field and would like to participate on our committee, please contact us . . . See Nina's report. More to come.

As you can see, we have an opening for a Secretary and Social Media Manager as our recently appointed Sydney Meadows reluctantly needed to take leave to focus on her family business and our Chamber of Commerce. If this part-time, paid position sounds appealing, please feel free to reach out to us.

A few key things in Clark Township that are worth touching on:

1. There was a school millage proposal that failed to pass on the November ballot.
2. The township, recognizing our residential sewer grinder pumps have exceeded their useful lives, purchased 650 new pumps and control panels which will be installed over the next two years.
3. LCIA contributed \$2,500 to a successful community drive that raised the \$270,000+ in match money needed to be eligible for a \$750,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. The grant and match money would be used to acquire the Neal house waterfront property in Hessel located adjacent to the Hessel Marina. Clark Township is a key finalist for the MDNR grant which is to be awarded sometime in December.

As we head into the colder season, it's a great time to consider ordering an LCIA inspection for your seasonal property. The area wildlife, heavy snows and winds can be very invasive to summer cottages. So having an extra set of eyes on your property from now until May for a mere \$100 is a pretty great deal.

Stay safe, stay warm and enjoy the holidays! . . . Paul Tabor – LCIA President

Manager's Report

Jim Keighley

LCIA Inspections have begun and will continue twice a month through May. If you haven't yet ordered your LCIA winter inspection service, it's not too late. See the mail-in sign-up and donation form attached to the end of this newsletter and send in your check!

Special Note: You may have seen a report of construction equipment that was stolen from an active work site. The stolen equipment has (mostly) been recovered. This theft was done by someone with specific connections to the work site – it was not a random or 'drive by' theft. Still a good idea to lock things up out of sight on your property.



LCIA Water Hazard Markers (Buoys) were all taken out for the year and placed into storage at Viking Marine by the end of October.

Water levels (from [Detroit District > Missions > Great Lakes Information > Great Lakes Water Levels > Water Level Forecast > Monthly Bulletin of Great Lakes Water Levels \(army.mil\)](#)):

- Water level dropped 10-12" in October.
- Level is projected to be 1-2" below last year in March (typical low point).
- USACE predictions of water levels are only made 6 months out because of uncertainty around precipitation (the biggest factor on our levels). Level predictions always include a range around them to reflect that uncertainty. That range gets larger as the prediction moves from 1 to 6 months out.

Fish & Game Report

Mark Engle

Late summer and early fall fishing activity was fairly heavy, especially for perch. Good catches were reported from various locations throughout the islands. While perch fishing, many anglers also caught large pumpkinseeds and bluegills, plus numerous, undersized pike and bass (small and largemouth).

Mid to late summer, good size walleye were taken in Snow's Channel, Cedarville Bay and the Club Cut. Walleye fishing has really picked up the past several years with more and more fishermen targeting them as the population seems to be increasing.

The Great Northwest Bass Anglers Club held their season final tournament in the LCI using the Cedarville launch site as headquarters. Fishing was a little tough as weather conditions were not ideal and water temps have remained unusually warm for this time of year. The tourney winner caught a two-day limit of ten smallmouth bass totaling 45.68 lbs. That total is pretty good considering the weather and water conditions.

The waterfowl season opened on September 30 with a bang, actually many bangs. The hunters I talked to did well. Since the opening weekend, it has been relatively quiet, but as colder weather sets in, the duck hunting action picked up.

I have been in the hardwoods quite a lot lately and have not seen too many grouse, but they can be hard to see until leaves are off the trees. Grouse season opened on September 15. It's often when the first snow cover occurs that they are easier to spot. I have seen numerous wild turkeys while driving back and forth to our woodlot. One morning I saw five separate flocks during the 15-mile ride.

From information I received this fall, tribal fishermen have caught a good number of mature herring (cisco) which is surprising considering the lack of herring taken by sports fishermen the past several years. Boaters need to be aware of tribal netting activity around the islands. You should be on the lookout for staffs and flags marking a netting area. Stay away and don't try to navigate between the markers.

Michigan-Out-of-Doors TV celebrities, Jimmy & Jordan, were recent guests of the Lipples at Island View Resort who took them out perch fishing. Be sure to watch for the episode to see how successful they were.

Communications Committee Report

Nina Abnee

The Communications Committee has been very busy during our 100th Anniversary and the launch of our new brand identity. As you may have seen, we have a new event booth, banners and signage. Our new updated brochure highlights all the benefits of our association including a beautiful map of the islands marking all of the LCIA buoy locations. All of this has created new awareness for LCIA and the ways we benefit our community. Our growing membership includes more young adults and local residents.

We have also been working to make the management of the association membership and member communications easier and less expensive. As such, we launched a system to move us from analogue to digital management with our MemberPlanet platform. Unfortunately, this system has not met our expectations or achieved our goals. While many of the issues have been fixed, the platform does not have the easy user experience we desire, nor is it optimal for mobile use. Therefore, as your officers, Paul Tabor, Linda Schepperly and I are working over the winter to reimagine our entire digital experience. Our top priorities are to add value to our website with easy-to-digest content that our members desire as well as easy membership and inspection renewals with multiple payment options. We also believe it is important to have a platform that is both desktop and mobile device friendly. And always with the option to renew in a standard paper form for those who prefer it. *(See the attached payment form at the end of the newsletter.)*

We are investigating several platform options and consulting user-experience experts and we are very encouraged about the benefits we can provide with a new website. We will do our best to launch a new site before next summer. We would love to hear from you about what kinds of regular information you would like us to provide. So feel free to send us your ideas.

Member Contribution – Hessel Summer Book Club

Marguerite “Margy” Long

Remember the Village Idiom? It was a delightful used bookstore run by Elizabeth Fells and Gail Legate in Hessel some 20 odd years ago. Hessel resident Nancy Burke was an LCIA volunteer and a number of us came up with the idea of having a regular book club. Conversation and enthusiasm grew. We first met at the bookstore and then expanded to the Hessel Market where shoppers would often join us. Then on to Mertaugh’s. We have now found a happy home at the Hessel School House and are glad to contribute to its support.

Led by the intrepid Margy Long and wise Jan Reelitz, we meet from spring to autumn approximately every two weeks to discuss our favorites. We don’t all read the same book but are asked to present a short synopsis and recommendation. These are then emailed to all; so by the end of the season, we have a great list of suggestions! **All are welcome.** There are so many great readers in the Snows!! Who knew?

Hessel Book Club donations to the HSH are as follows: 2020: \$630; 2022: \$950; and 2023: \$675.

LCIA Township Liaison Report

Jim Keighley

Want to stay better connected to what the Township is doing? Join the newly formed Citizens of Clark Township Facebook Group:

[\(2\) Citizens of Clark Township: Cedarville and Hessel communities | Facebook](#)

From the Chamber of Commerce:

- **Snowsfest will again be the weekend BEFORE Presidents Day weekend. Snowsfest will be February 9-11, 2024. Stay tuned for the Snowsfest schedule on our Facebook page to see all the weekend festivities . . . and then, come join us!**
- The Chamber has donated additional playground equipment for the downtown park (between the Tipper Room and the ice Cream Shoppe). The dead trees near the Gazebo will be removed. A rock barrier separating the Tipper Room parking lot from the playground for added safety are now in place.

From the Township Supervisor's Office:

- A heads-up: There will likely be some adjustments to the recycling center operating schedule next year. Changes are being driven by the ability to attract/retain staffing. Details of the changes are still being worked on with GFL.

From the Township Clerk's Office:

- The millages for Ambulance Service/EMT and Sewer system both passed in August by large margins.
- The election on November 7th contained a sizeable school millage which did not pass. It is likely that a proposal will be restructured and brought forward in 2024. Details of the November 7, 2023 millage proposal (including the potential impact on your tax bill) can be seen here:
[2023 School Bond | Les Cheneaux Community Schools \(cedarvilletrojans.org\)](https://cedarvilletrojans.org)
- A breakdown of the project scope & projected costs are listed on the next page.

LCIA Township Liaison Report - *continued*:

Les Cheneaux Community Schools
School Bond – November 7, 2023



Proposed Projects and Estimated Costs

Remodeling/New Construction (Estimated Cost: \$9,213,260)

1. Fix leaking roof over selected areas in building
2. Replace deteriorating masonry areas
3. Renovate building entrances with canopies
4. Replace interior doors/hardware in selected rooms
5. Remodeling of restrooms throughout building
6. Replace ceiling tile in selected areas of the building
7. Replace wood constructed cubbies in corridors with lockers (elementary hallway)
8. Replace interior and exterior doors in the shop room
9. Low scale remodel of the Multi-Purpose Room
10. Resurfacing of gym floor
11. Renovate the boys and girls locker rooms
12. Renovate lobby area near entrance of gymnasium
13. Improve the bleachers in the gymnasium
14. New fieldhouse for student and community use
15. Construct greenhouse in proximity of current building
16. Add digital sign between school and Dollar General

Mechanical (Estimated Cost: \$1,079,000)

1. Replace heating units in selected rooms
2. Update the dust collector system in the shop room
3. Renovate ventilation system in shop room
4. Replace heating controllers in gymnasium
5. Replace air handlers/controllers in kitchen, common area, band room, and shop

Electrical (Estimated Cost: \$754,000)

1. Generator back up system (School will be an emergency shelter location)
2. Exterior door controls (fob system) and emergency lighting
3. Replace ceiling fans in multi-purpose room
4. Replace phone system
5. Replace sound system in gymnasium
6. Replacement of lighting and fixtures in selected areas of the building

Miscellaneous (Estimated Cost: \$1,544,186)

1. Additional devices for students
2. Replace classroom furniture in selected areas of the building
3. Replace two school buses
4. Remodel existing football field bleachers
5. Resurface outdoor tennis and basketball courts
6. Resurface existing track
7. Address drainage issues around the exterior of the building

This list of projects comes on the recommendation of the bond steering committee (which consists of parents and community members), staff, school administration, and the Board of Education. The groups met multiple times throughout the process to provide a list that would enhance the opportunities for students, staff and community members. This list was approved by the Board of Education in August of 2023.

Membership Committee Report

Anne Royan

As many of you may know, the LCIA Membership Committee initiated a campaign this year to sign-up 100 new LCIA members to not only help absorb our increased community service costs but to commemorate our 100th year anniversary. To this end, we initiated some new member outings and drove our revised branded messaging to a new generation of potential members. As a result, we are very pleased to announce that we have signed-up 46 new members as we approach the halfway point of our goal for 100 new members. There are also a fair number of people we met this past summer and intend to contact over the winter months who expressed interest in LCIA.

In addition, we have created a new “Sponsor” Membership for our local Chamber of Commerce members who are interested in helping our effort to support our community. Be sure to look for our LCIA PROUD SPONSOR logo sticker (*shown below*) in our sponsor’s windows and make a point of frequenting these establishments.



**If you would like to make a 2023 Membership or Sponsorship Contribution of \$50,
AND / OR**

**If you would like to make a donation to LCIA to help us with our Community Services
AND / OR**

If you wish to have LCIA inspections of a summer cottage and/or out-buildings over the winter,

**Please find attached a mail-in form that can be printed out, filled-out and mailed in
with your check to LCIA.**

NOTE: Purchased inspections of your property will commence within 2 weeks of receipt of your check and a completed inspection form (attached). 2023/2024 inspections will conclude in May of 2024.



2023 - 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS – DONATIONS – PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT FORM

Thank you for supporting the Les Cheneaux Islands Association!

“Working together for the betterment of our community”

\$50 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OR SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Your annual \$50 dues will support LCIA’s core pillar programs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024:

PROTECTING: Annual launching, placement, retrieval and storage of 125 navigational - water hazard buoys; Youth boater safety certification classes;

INSPECTING: Area water sampling and analysis; Property inspection overhead and management provisions; Monitoring of fish and game patterns with MDNR

CONNECTING: Providing LCIA membership with financial and administrative reporting, quarterly newsletters, website and social media postings; Researching, documenting and sharing LCI history and heritage; Reporting on and representing LCIA at township and county municipal and planning meetings; Assisting local hardship centers; Providing donations to area infrastructure - fire and rescue equipment, harbor improvements, and other municipal projects; Coordination of LCIA member social events and LCIA annual dinner.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Please consider contributing an additional amount to support the LCIA missions.

By providing donations beyond your annual dues, you are further assisting LCIA in its ability to Protect, Inspect and Connect. LCIA relies on the generosity of its members, area residents and visitors to accomplish its service tasks. As an example, the annual maintenance and periodic replacement of our water hazard buoys is made possible because of these generous and additional donations as opposed to increases in dues. Likewise, most of LCIA’s contributions to core municipal infrastructure projects/programs (Cedarville docks, Kayak launch, fire and rescue equipment, etc.) are mostly realized through these additional donations.

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Winters in the Les Cheneaux Island area can be quite severe. And summer residences can take the brunt of it. As an optional service to our members who are not here in the winter months, LCIA employs inspectors who conduct two exterior property inspections per month of each paid property from September through May (ice permitting for island properties). As a member of LCIA, you are provided the opportunity to purchase these inspections. You may purchase inspections for one or two residence(s). You may also purchase inspections for one or more large, additional, structures associated with each residence (e.g., boathouse or guest cottage).

Please fill-out the form below and mail-in with your check

LCIA MEMBER / SPONSOR INFORMATION

Member or Business Name:

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS - DONATIONS - INSPECTIONS

2023 / 2024 LCIA Membership Contribution

Annual LCIA Membership Contribution (Dues) = **\$50**

\$

NOTE: Annual LCIA Membership Contributions are for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

2023 / 2024 LCIA Donations

Additional Donation to LCIA

\$

Thank you!

2023 / 2024 Annual Property Inspections: (September 2023 – May 2024)

Inspection: 1st Residence = \$100

\$

Address:

Qty additional structures at 1st residence to be inspected x \$25 each

\$

Structure

Descriptions:

Inspection: 2nd Residence = \$100

\$

Address:

Qty additional structures at 2nd residence to be inspected x \$25 each

\$

Structure

Descriptions:

TOTAL PAYMENT

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK:

THANK YOU!

\$

Please make check payable to:

The Les Cheneaux Islands Association

Please mail your payment to:

1158 S. Park Avenue, Cedarville, MI 49719