

The Story of the Les Cheneaux Islands Association

by Guy H. Hamel

The organizational meeting of the Les Cheneaux Islands Association was called to order on August 23, 1922, in the First Union Church of Cedarville. This was a small building some two hundred fifty feet west of where the present church stands. Some of those present at that meeting were: O. M. Reif, Frank P. Sullivan, H. P. Hossack, Dr. Charles A. Wood, Charles H. Hopkins, George LaFleur, H. M. Woollen, C. H. Heuck, W. H. Foote, Victor Shoberg, and myself. The credit for bringing this association together belongs primarily to Mr. Hopkins, a respected leader in the community and the first real estate broker in Les Cheneaux. He had discussed the matter the year before with Mr. Reif and, after some preliminary meetings in 1922, the August 23 meeting was held—at which time the constitution and by-laws were adopted.

A year later there were ninety-eight members on the roster. Dr. Oscar Berghausen stressed the importance of doing something about sanitation in the district, so he was appointed chairman of a committee on that subject. His written report was handed in at the next annual meeting. He had contacted the various hotels and received assurances of cooperation; he also arranged to have health department pamphlets mailed to all property owners which outlined the procedures for proper installation of private septic systems.

In 1924 a good deal of attention was given to the extension of the state highway so as to include Cedarville and Hessel; a petition was filed and the highway department agreed, naming the route M-134 a few years later. In 1926 the Association stressed the importance of flashing marine lights at the East and West entrances to the Islands; the money was to come from the Association and the Les Cheneaux Club. Due to the good efforts of Herb Woollen, the Les Cheneaux Club contributed more than half. Also in 1926 the fish and game committee succeeded in having the state make a survey of nearby streams to determine the advisability of planting trout therein.

In 1929 the Association hired a manager to look after the interests of its membership under the direction of its officers. A permanent public dock in Cedarville had been discussed through the years and, with contributions from the Association as well as from many of its individual members, it was completed in 1931. In order to accomplish this, a good deal of dredging had to be done in 1930; H. P. Hossack and the Association split that bill.

The 1934 annual meeting was held at the Islington Hotel and one hun-

dred sixty-one members attended. Dr. E. A. Wagner, the president, gave the address of welcome, after which followed committee reports. Mr. Eli Speidel spoke on the subject of why it would be in the best interests of cottage owners to belong to the Association, stressing that the regular inspection of members' cottages and grounds by the manager and his crew during the winter would not only keep the members informed but also act as a deterrent against burglary and vandalism. The manager would report to any member so victimized and receive instructions as to what should then be done.

The Association early on was responsible for having the lights placed at the channel entrances and also placed markers on reefs, old cribs, and rocks—thus cutting down on boat damage—and also for dredging Cedarville harbor and building the association dock. It has also been active in working with the conservation department in efforts to preserve the area and arrange for the planting of large numbers of brook trout and other fish locally. Over the years the Association has been involved in all areas of concern to the area: harbor facilities, zoning, boating safety, fish and game regulation, property inspection, and winter snow removal. There follows a list of presidents, secretaries, and managers who have served the Association:⁸⁸

<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Manager</i>
1923	Dr. Charles A. Wood	Guy H. Hamel	none
1924	Dr. Charles A. Wood	Guy H. Hamel	none
1925	Dr. Charles A. Wood	Guy H. Hamel	none
1926	Eli H. Speidel	Arvilla C. White	none
1927	Carl Hubert Heuck	Arvilla C. White	none
1928	Carl Hubert Heuck	Allen W. Jones	none
1929	W. H. Kelly	Bertha Johnson	none
1930	W. H. Kelly	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1931	Charles W. Wagner	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1932	Charles W. Wagner	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1933	Charles W. Wagner	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1934	Dr. Edward A. Wagner	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1935	Dr. Edward A. Wagner	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1936	Charles E. Letts	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1937	Charles E. Letts	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1938	F. E. Skeels	Bertha Johnson	Vernon W. Hossack
1939	F. E. Skeels	Bertha Johnson	Alvin A. Hossack
1940	Marshall Haywood	Bertha Johnson	Alvin A. Hossack
1941	Marshall Haywood	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1942	Gustav Haffner	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1943	Gustav Haffner	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1944	Leonard S. Smith, Jr.	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1945	Leonard S. Smith, Jr.	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack

The Community: A Gathering

1946	Leonard S. Smith, Jr.	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1947	Ed. D. Schorr	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1948	Ed. D. Schorr	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1949	Clifford H. Reiter	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1950	Clifford H. Reiter	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1951	Dr. H. V. Steinmetz	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1952	Dr. H. V. Steinmetz	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1953	Charles M. Williams	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1954	Charles M. Williams	Grace Windsor	Alvin A. Hossack
1955	Claude W. Coates	Blanche W. Markey	Alvin A. Hossack
1956	Claude W. Coates	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1957	Forrest E. Ely	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1958	Forrest E. Ely	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1959	Alvin J. Herzig	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1960	Alvin J. Herzig	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1961	Timothy D. Calvin	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1962	Timothy D. Calvin	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1963	Dr. Paul R. Hoy	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1964	Dr. Paul R. Hoy	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1965	Frank Garratt	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1966	Frank Garratt	Blanche W. Markey	Edward C. Rudd
1967	Kenneth P. Horsburgh	Blanche W. Markey	William A. Smale
1968	Kenneth P. Horsburgh	Blanche W. Markey	William A. Smale
1969	J. Barr Haines	Blanche W. Markey	William A. Smale
1970	J. Barr Haines	Blanche W. Markey	William A. Smale
1971	Stephen P. Upham, Jr.	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1972	Stephen P. Upham, Jr.	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1973	Stephen P. Upham, Jr.	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1974	Donald W. Neal	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1975	Charles A. Richards	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1976	Charles E. Letts, Jr.	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1977	Conrad Shoberg	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1978	Doris H. Abnee	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1979	E. James Mertaugh	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1980	Elliot Sjoberg	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1981	Richard M. Powell	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1982	Philip McM. Pittman	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean
1983	Philip McM. Pittman	Judith J. MacLean	Capt. Clifford R. MacLean