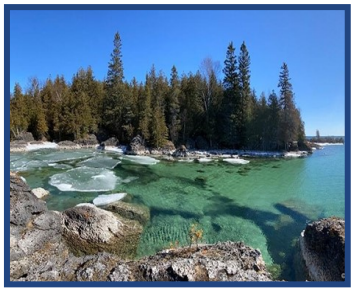
LCIA
LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS ASSOCIATION



SPRING NEWSLETTER

MAY - 2022

PROTECTING

INSPECTING

CONNECTING

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

OFFICERS

President
Mike Patrick

Secretary/Treasurer
John (Bo) Hesser

1st Vice President
Paul Tabor

2nd Vice President
Linda Schepperly

DIRECTORS

Nina Abnee
John Bentley
Rosemary Conroy
Barbara Favret
Sean Murray
Deborah Baker
Susan Pool
Dan Reelitz
Kevin Smith
Dan Totonchi

ADMINISTRATION

Manager
Mark Engle

Board Secretary
Esther Engle

A MESSAGE FROM LCIA PRESIDENT - *Mike Patrick*

Spring has finally arrived in LCI. The month of May has been like its name – May rain, May snow and it May warm up. But, we have good news . . Memorial Day is just about here, which means summer can begin.

Welcome home to those LCIA members who are already here and those who will soon be arriving.

There is a lot of information in this issue, including articles about the new membership dues structure and the on-line membership management system. I would like to thank the LCIA board, committee members and staff for their time and effort in getting the system up and running. Special thanks goes out to Alan McCord for his technical expertise and devoting so much of his time to this project. If you haven't pushed the 'Get Started' button on your email invitation, I encourage you to do so. The new system is an easy and convenient way to keep your contact information up to date, renew your annual membership, purchase inspections and communicate with each other.

I would like to emphasize that this year is LCIA's 100th Anniversary and we want to celebrate! The LCIA has so much history and has worked hard for the betterment of the communities of Cedarville and Hessel. A special event is being planned for Wednesday, August 3 at the Hessel School House. The annual business meeting will take place at 3pm followed by a 100th Anniversary Celebration from 5pm to 8pm. You will receive an email with more details and reservation information.

In closing, can't wait to see all of you back in Les Cheneaux.

Stay safe and enjoy.

MANAGER'S REPORT
Mark Engle

Water & Weather Update
As of May 1st, spring has been "right around the corner" for many weeks in the LCI. We may have had a 50 degree temperature for a few minutes one day but generally it has been brrrr and grrrr! April showers were mostly snow showers. Morning lows in the low 20s and afternoon high temps in the low 30s and steady winds were the norm for April. Boaters reported seeing chunks of ice floating around Coryell and Boot Islands and in Government Bay on April 30.

On the bright side, the 10 day forecast (at the time of this writing) predicts warmer temps and improving conditions.

Comparing May 1, 2022 to May 1 2021, Lake Huron is now 8 inches lower. The forecast for May is an increase of approx. 3 inches of water level. We have seen some significant water level fluctuations this spring which is fairly normal; abnormal is the amount of strong, easterly winds we have experienced.

LCIA Property Inspections
LCIA property inspectors have not reported any security issues such as break-ins, theft or vandalism. There have been reports of fallen trees and some wind damage to roofs along with windows and doors blown open. Inspectors of island properties are at the in-between period of travel by snowmobile, changing to travel by boat. Our inspection crew puts out a lot of effort; they are to be commended for a job well done!

LCIA Aids to Navigation
Steve Honnila and his Viking Boat Harbor crew are prepping the LCIA buoys prior to spring placement. We are indebted to Steve for his work which includes storage, maintenance, pulling (Fall) and placement (Spring) of the 120 buoys owned by the Association.

The Coast Guard has completed spring placement of their aids to navigation. Boaters should stay within the marked navigational channels to be safe. In addition to lower water, 'dead heads' and floating debris are a danger at this time of year.

Fish & Game
The local whitetail deer herd appears to have weathered the winter fairly well. Late winter weather conditions are a key factor for deer survival. Even though February, March & April were quite cold, there was enough melting of the snow cover to provide some bare ground so deer could move freely and find fresh grass to eat.

There was plenty of ice fishing activity in the LCIs this winter. Perch fishing was generally good throughout the islands. Some good sized splake were caught along with occasional lake trout, especially in Hessel and Wilderness Bays. Pike fishermen reported seeing less fish than the abundant numbers of the past several years.

The following is a summary of the Annual DNR Fish Assessment Survey that was conducted in the LCIs in October, 2021. The summary was provided by Regional Fish Biologist, David Fielder, who heads the study with an emphasis on the relationship between double crested cormorants and yellow perch populations.

- Abundance of all ages combined of Yellow Perch in the 2021 survey net catch increased significantly from the previous year.
- Angler Yellow Perch catch rate in the recreational fishery, however, declined for the second year in a row to a yearly total of 20,230 perch.
- Recruitment of age-2 perch to the population was the highest in the past four years and indicated ongoing good natural reproduction by Yellow Perch.
- Growth rate of Yellow Perch is at the state average growth rate. Total annual mortality of adult perch increased slightly in 2021 to a rate of 45%.
- Cormorant nest count declined by nearly half in 2021 to a total of 752 nests.

In general, until 2021, Cormorant abundance remained high, averaging a nest count of 1,385 nests per year. The previous management target was set at no more than 500 nests. The higher abundance of Cormorants was attributed to the suspension of traditional Cormorant management as a result of the Court Order in 2015 that vacated most of the management authority of the state. Partial control was restored in 2018. The USFWS availed new management authority via site-specific control permits which the State of

Michigan applied for and implemented with the help of the USDA Wildlife Services in 2021. The lower nest count is consistent with the resumption of management.

The decline in older age perch in the LCI since 2017 is consistent with the rise in abundance of Cormorants. Netting confirms that perch continue to reproduce well and hopefully with Cormorant management resuming, we will see the perch population rebuild and improvements in the fishery.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Nina Abnee, Membership Committee, Fourth Generation

In honor of our 100th anniversary, we will be launching a drive to build awareness of our association to attract new members. Our wish is to attract 100 new members so we can better serve our community. Please remind your friends, neighbors and family members of all the good things our organization does and encourage them to join.

As we announced in April, LCIA has just under 500 members and this number has remained steady for more than a decade. To ensure LCIA is a community association for everyone who enjoys the Les Cheneaux islands, we are 'unbundling' membership dues from cottage inspection fees. For summer and island residents, our winter cottage inspections are a wonderful and valued service. However, since our current membership fees are inclusive of inspection fees, it's been a challenge to attract new members who do not need inspections. This includes local residents, businesses, young adults and summer residents who share cottages. By separating membership from inspections, we can grow LCIA and do even more for the betterment of our community.

Annual membership fee is now $50. Once you choose your inspection needs, it is added to the cost of your membership. To attract more young adults to join LCIA, we are adding a new "under 40" membership category with a fee of only $25 per year. We are also planning some special events to help members connect with each other while they are in the area.

Joining LCIA and renewing your membership has never been easier due to our new online member management system. Many thanks to Al McCord and Esther Engle who were instrumental in the selection, analysis and customization process, ensuring that LCIA members' needs are met. The new system allows you to maintain your information, renew memberships, make donations, purchase property inspections and, importantly, the online directory will make it easier for us to connect with each other.

The good news is your membership information has already been uploaded. Many thanks to those who have already logged into the system to confirm your information. ***If you have not logged into the system to confirm your information please do so now.*** Link to LCIA Member Page.

We do not want anyone to miss invitations to the annual dinner or membership and inspections renewals which will be sent to you in mid-June. This technology is game-changing in helping us grow our membership, plan events, and become a more inclusive community organization.

One hundred years is a long time and thanks to you our community is thriving. We are looking forward to celebrating together as our commitment to community gets even stronger.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR,
Susan Pool, Third Generation

It's not very often that one gets to announce the official celebration of our 100th Anniversary. On August 23, 1922 at the First Union Church of Cedarville, the founding members of LCIA held their very first meeting. The creation of an association of local and islanders for the purpose of supporting the Les Cheneaux area was ahead of its time. On that day the following individuals, their names you will recognize, attended that meeting and are listed below:

W.H. Foote, Guy H. Hamel, C.H. Heuck, Charles H. Hopkins, H.P. Hossack, George LaFleur, O.M. Reif, Victor Shoberg, Frank P. Sullivan, Dr. Charles A Wood and H.M. Woolen.

Since then, LCIA has made traveling our waters safer, our homes and cottages more secure, and initiated and supported fundamental improvements in community assets, such as water quality, fish & game regulation, fire safety, road/highway extensions, tax & licensing concerns, public land set asides, recycling, etc. Over these hundred years our combined voices have made a strong impact and with our sustained growth in membership we will help to protect and support this special place we all love.

We are excited to share our new logo designed by fifth generation and professional designer, Rachael Bentley. Thank you Rachael. We hope you'll agree that our attractive new logo and three new community pillars, *Protecting, Inspecting & Connecting* better highlight our ongoing efforts.

Protecting

- Annual placement/removal of over 120 navigational buoys to protect boaters from shoal, rock, and shallow water hazards..
- Free boating safety classes for boaters 12 years and older, providing certification and a free personal floatation device (75 certifications were awarded in 2021 alone).
- Volunteer and financial contributions totaling over $25,000 over the past ten years, including the Cedarville Harbor project, fire & rescue boat, ADA kayak launch, LC Community Library, Snows Heritage Park, Frog Fest, Clark Township recycling and more.

Inspecting

- Seasonal property Inspections (Sept thru May) for more than 350 seasonal residents.
- Monitoring and reporting new waterway hazards due to environmental changes.
- Monitoring water quality, wildlife, fish and invasive species.

Connecting

- Liaison with local, county, state and federal officials.
- Representation with Coast Guard, Corp of Engineers, and Sheriff Marine Patrol.
- Sponsorship and participation in local community events, July 4th Parade, Antique Boat Show, etc. .
- Coordination with other non-profit community organizations; LC Chamber, LC Watershed, LC Community Foundation and Conservancies.
- Informative newsletters, social media, and notifications for our members .
- Annual dinner, new member receptions, book club, hiking groups, and more.

Staying connected has been a challenge in the past two years, but we are excited to reconnect in person this year at the 4th of July parade, annual meeting, 100th Anniversary Celebration and boat show. We hope to enlist 100 existing LCIA members to march along with us in the parade and join us at our new booth in the park after the parade (more details will be posted on our Facebook page). Please stop in at these upcoming events and say hello and see our new LCIA event booth and materials.

On August 3rd, after our annual business meeting, and in lieu of the annual dinner, we will gather under a tent on the lawn of the Hessel School House for a special 100th Anniversary celebration. Stay tuned for more details.

Don't forget to check the **Calendar of Events** on the last page of this newsletter and on our website for other activities and ways to connect.

Looking through our printed Annual Reports dating back to 1925, we are indebted to all those community folks who came before us, including the LCIA membership and its founding members who cared so deeply about this place and worked hard to preserve and improve upon it.

We are grateful for your continued membership and support of the association and hope you'll invite your friends, neighbors and family to join as well. Future generations will appreciate your commitment to this association and its support of our community.

Congratulations LCIA on a successful 100 Years.

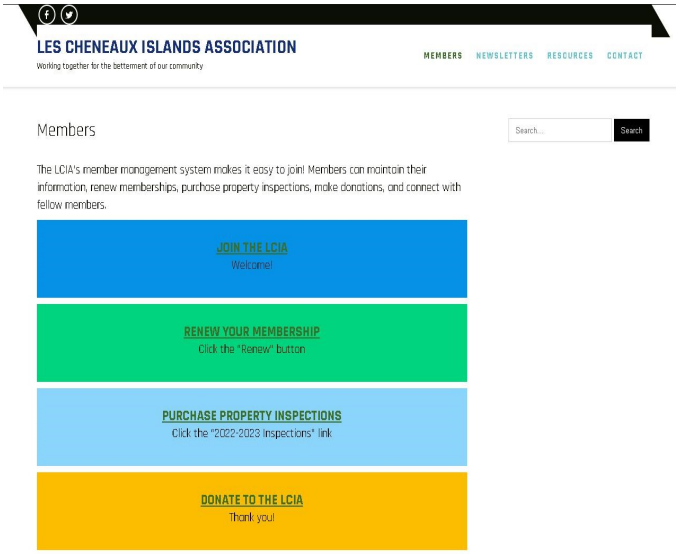
MEMBER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
Al McCord

The LCIA is pleased to announce that its online Member Management System is up and running. The system lets you maintain your membership, purchase inspections, make donations, and connect with fellow members. The new system replaces the paper-based membership and inspection payment forms used for many years. All member business transactions will now be conducted using the Member Management System.

A technology task force reviewed several online systems in early 2021 and recommended adopting MemberPlanet's system for our use. The Board approved the proposal at its September 2021 meeting. The task force collaborated to define the member information to be collected and how the Member Management System will operate. The system was tested and rolled out to existing members in early April.

All existing member information was uploaded to the Member Management System so members do not need to enter their own data. Members can, however, make updates to their information whenever a change is needed. LCIA staff will update winter inspection information after your inspection payment is made. You must have an e-mail address to use the Member Management System, as your address will serve as your online ID. There is no charge to members for using the system or for making online payments.

The Member Management System is in full operation. Simply visit the "Members" tab on the LCIA website https://islandsassoc.org and you will see links to join (for new members), renew your membership, to purchase inspections, and to make donations.



Membership renewals for 2022-2023 as well as payment for inspections become due July 1.

The LCIA website also includes a number of resources to help you use the Member Management System and to learn more about LCIA services. We encourage you to check out the website and also to participate in our Facebook page @islandsassociation.

You may send any questions or suggestions about the Member Management System to lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com

LCIA Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2022

Meetings will be held at the Hessel School House and will also be available via Zoom

(All LCIA members are welcome to attend)

Friday - May 27 - 9:00 a.m.

Friday - July 8 - 9:00 a.m.

Friday - September 2 - 9:00 a.m.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held at the Hessel School House

Wednesday - August 3 - 3:00 p.m.

Followed By . . . . . .

A Special Event in Celebration of

LCIA's 100th Anniversary

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

~ HONORARY MEMBERSHIP ~

The LCIA Membership Committee and Board of Directors would like to recognize individuals who are over 80 years old and have been long-time members and supporters of the Les Cheneaux Islands Association. Each year LCIA will make several complimentary memberships available in appreciation of the generosity, time and support these members have given to the association over the years.

We would like to introduce Grace Koeppe as our first Honorary Member. The Koeppe name has been on our membership records for decades, however we did not know Grace's history and that she was actually born on Marquette Island.

Thank you to Grace's daughter, Nancy Spicer, for sending us these photos and writing this article about her mother.

Grace Agatha Koeppe (nee Krause) was born on July 31, 1927 in a partially-built log cabin on Marquette Island in Wilderness Bay. She was delivered by her uncle, Dr. Rudolph Pfeiffer, who also summered in the bay.

Grace's parents, Rev. & Mrs. William F. Krause, purchased the property around 1918 and soon began the tedious task of clearing the land and building the cabin. To keep little Grace warm, rags were placed between the logs during construction. They even built a fancy, two-seat outhouse! Since there was no electricity on the island, they kept their food cool by putting it in containers and storing it under the cabin.

Past memories include long hikes to Liberty's, swimming in the clear, cool waters of Lake Huron and Jersey Muds at McFee's. Endless nights of fishing and pinochle were shared by all. A ring of the dinner bell would call the islanders to Sunday church services, led by Rev. Krause.

Five generations have shared wonderful memories at the "Koeppe Kottage."

This year Grace will be celebrating her 95th birthday. She is such a blessing to us all!

* * *

There are many other long-time LCIA members, each with their own special story and history in LCI.
Let us know your story by emailing to lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com

FROM LCIA'S HISTORICAL COMMITTEE, JOHN GRIFFIN, CHAIR

BY, VALERIE WOLTERS

"U.S. Post Office, Coryell Island(s), Michigan!"

Imagine being an early visitor or settler, making your way to Les Cheneaux. Your destination could be one of thirty-six islands, accessible only by water. How would you have kept in touch with people in the cities and states you left? You could assume that there was mail service in town; but, on the islands?

Enter William Henry Coryell, Civil War veteran from Grand Rapids, who enjoyed camping with friends on Boot Island. Coryell actually homesteaded "Island Number Five" in 1894, purchasing plots for his family (plus land to sell) on newly-renamed "Coryell Island." His dream of building a hotel facing Government Island was realized when the Coryell and McBain families constructed "a twenty-five room resort hotel on the ridge overlooking Scammons Harbor, and called it 'Lakeside Hotel'."

Initially, it was necessary to boat to Cedarville's post office at the Hossack general store. By 1908, Coryell Post Office operated within LAKESIDE hotel. (Its wooden clerk's window façade has been donated to LCHA's Museum, and will be displayed in 2022, along with items from the second location.) Most people are more familiar with the dockside site, located in the green boat building next to the gazebo.

Passengers, freight, building materials, and mailbags were delivered to Hessel and Cedarville, plus hotels along the channel by Steamers from Mackinac Island, daily—sometimes twice daily. The unmistakable sound of the "mailboats" drew people from Coryell and nearby islands to boat over and/or walk to get mail. Children would play games, including ping-pong, and people would visit as they waited. "The post office created a true community for our islands!" --- Elizabeth Drake Kausch, Boot Island resident for more than eighty-five Summers

Embossed mailbox doors with tiny windows would show if "you've got mail". At last, Postmaster Ralph McBain would open the Dutch door to indicate "OPEN for business!"

Official postal business ran from 1908-1913, and 1915-1958. "Coryell Islands Post Office" operated as a rural branch station until June, 1974, thanks to mail deliveries from Cedarville (often in Oren Shoberg's boat.)

To honor the past, here's hoping you'll write a letter today! --Valerie Wolters, Coryell Island, Cedarville, MI

Consider reading more information in:

~~ Helen Shoberg's *Early Hotels in the Les Cheneaux Islands*

~~Geo. R LaFleur's *The Les Cheneaux Islands Michigan*

~~ Guy Hamel and family's *Les Cheneaux Breezes Vol. 1-4*

~Philip McM. Pittman's *Ripples from the Breezes A Les Cheneaux Anthology*

Photo shared by Rebecca Mayes Heard

Photo shared by Drake Kausch

LCIA
2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	Boat Docking Instruction by Appointment, Contact John Griffin - 906-298-1694
MAY	
27	LCIA Board of Directors Meeting - Hessel School House - 9am (All members are welcome to attend)
JUNE	
8	Book Club Meeting at Hessel School House - 10am (every other Wednesday) Contact Barb Augenblick - 906-484-2840
JULY	
3	Fireworks at dusk
4	LC Ambulance Aux. Pancake Breakfast, 7:30am to 10:30am, Clark Twsp. Fire Dept. 4th of July Parade, 11am LCIA will have an entry in the parade & a welcoming booth set up in the park
5 & 6	Youth Boating Safety & Certification Course (2-night session) Open to youth ages 12-16 (adults welcome) Les Cheneaux Community Center - 6pm to 9pm Pre-registration required. Contact John Griffin - 906-298-1694
8	LCIA Board of Directors Meeting - Hessel School House - 9am (All members are welcome to attend)
14	Nature Walk - Meet at Cedarville Foods - 11am Contact Pat Wilson - 906-484-2708
20	New Member & Referring Member Meet-Up at LC Distillery - 3pm
AUGUST	
3	LCIA's Annual Business Meeting, 3pm at the Hessel School House LCIA's 100 Year Celebration & Annual Gathering 5-8pm at the Hessel School House LCIA's Annual Food Drive - Kick-off - To be announced
9 & 10	Youth Boating Safety & Certification Course (2-night session) Les Cheneaux Community Center - 6pm to 9pm Pre-registration required. Contact John Griffin - 906-298-1694
13	Hessel Boat Show - LCIA will host a booth
17	New Member & Referring Member Meet-Up at LC Distillery - 3pm
24	Nature Walk - Meet at Cedarville Foods - 11am Contact Pat Wilson - 906-484-2708
SEPTEMBER	
2	LCIA Board of Directors Meeting - Hessel School House, 9am (All members are welcome to attend)
7	Wrap Up Party at LC Distillery - 3pm