

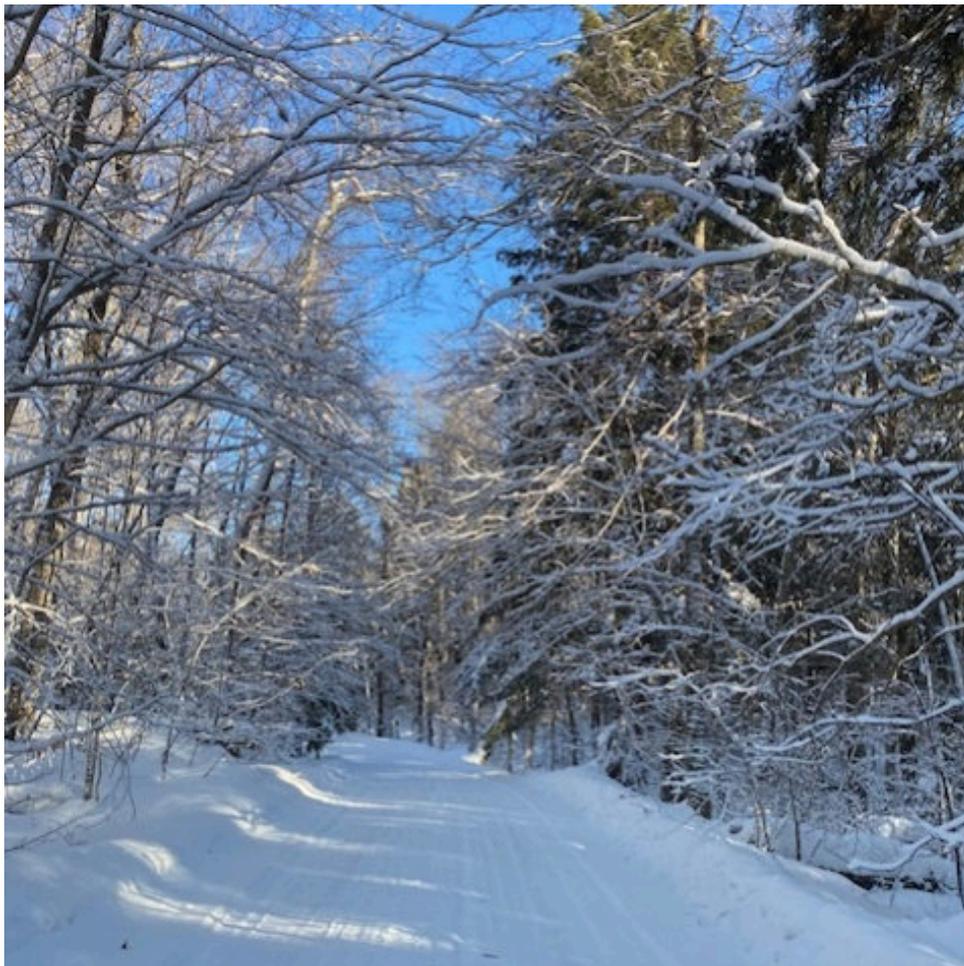
**From:** KLCA - Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association info@klca.org  
**Subject:** KLCA Winter 2026 Newsletter  
**Date:** January 29, 2026 at 9:19 PM  
**To:** Doug's Test Account Clare claredj45@gmail.com



Can't see this message? [View in browser](#)



# WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER





Happy 2026! We hope everyone is enjoying everything that winter on Kawagama and Bear Lakes has to offer. Check out some of the many upcoming local events:

## **Dorset Poker Run - February 7 - with a Grand Prize of \$1500!**

The Tall Pines Snowmobile Club and the Dorset Volunteer Firefighters Association have partnered once again to host the 2026 Dorset Poker Run.

Hit the trails with more than 300 riders on **Saturday, February 7th** to complete the checkpoints and return back to Lions Camp Dorset to draw poker hands, eat and enjoy some fun with fellow riders.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

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**Family Day Weekend (February 14-17)** is around the corner and if you're planning to be on the lake, there's lots to do that weekend with the Dorset Snowball, snowmobiling, skiing or skating at the local rink in Dorset.



**Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival -  
Feb. 13 & 14**

Join the local community in a celebration of winter at this year's Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival! Check out the full lineup of events and activities, including a Family Skate Party, Ice Palace, and the traditional Snowball Parade. You don't want to miss it!

Get all the [event details below](#)

SNOWBALL DETAILS!



## KLCA Board Updates

### **Lake Plan Sub-Committee Update**

We are making progress on our renewed Lake Plan. The four sub-committees have been meeting to discuss the key priorities for our lake community and we will soon be distributing a questionnaire to KLCA members and the wider community in late February to gather further insights. We hope this will ensure that we capture a diversity of views on what our board priorities should be over the coming years. Stay tuned for more news to come!

We are pleased to welcome our newest KLCA board member, **Frances Kampouris**, who will lead the Environment Portfolio. A cottage resident for 17 years, her family has been part of the Kawagama Lake community for over 40 years. Frances brings a deep personal connection to the lake, as well as extensive professional experience in governance and board advisory work, including supporting Indigenous governing bodies in

developing self-determining governance structures and facilitating strategic planning for boards across various sectors. Frances looks forward to applying her skills and experience to support the environmental priorities of the Kawagama Lake community.



### **Supporting the Dorset Fire Department**

The KLCA was thrilled to be able to present a cheque for \$4,000 to the Dorset Fire Department. The donation is going towards an ATV that will assist the firefighters in getting to service calls in our community.

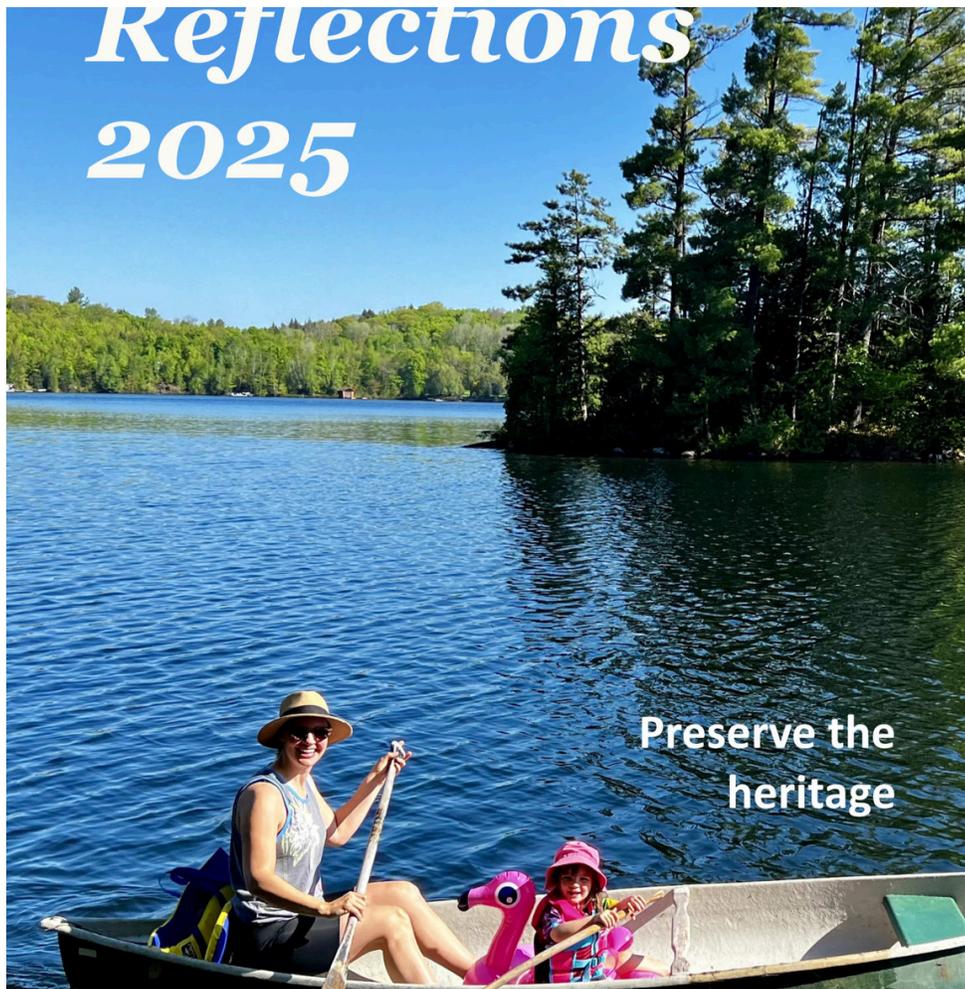
*A big thank you to all these volunteers who help our community stay safe!*

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## **KLCA Committee Updates**



# Reflections 2025



Preserve the  
heritage

## Reflections 2026 needs your contributions!

Did you do something fun at the lake last summer? Did you learn something about our lakes? Tell or hear a good ghost story or have story to tell about an encounter with a wild animal? Take some great photos? Create a cottage recipe, game or craft for your kids or yourself?

Please send all contributions (articles, stories, poems, cottage recipes, and photos) **by February 26, 2026**

**to: [reflections@klca.org](mailto:reflections@klca.org)!**

Together, let's make this year's edition as interesting and fun to read as last year's.

SUBMIT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## Reflections 2025 Advertisers

We would like to thank all the local businesses that supported the KLCA by advertising in Reflections 2025. We appreciate all that you do for our community.

### **Building Centres**

Dorset Timber Mart  
(705) 766-2263 or (855) 766-  
2263  
[www.dorsettimbermart.com](http://www.dorsettimbermart.com)

### **Contractors**

All Ways Roofing and Siding  
Inc.  
(705) 767-3354  
[ken@alwaysroofing.ca](mailto:ken@alwaysroofing.ca)

### **Financial and Insurance**

#### **Services**

Ventum -Private Client  
Services  
(416) 864-3629 or (888) 332-  
2661  
[www.mcbridewealthmanage  
ment.ca](http://www.mcbridewealthmanagement.ca)

Bacher Construction Ltd.

(705) 766-0204  
[www.johnbacherconstruction  
.com](http://www.johnbacherconstruction.com)

Cedar St. Designs

(705) 446-6418

[ljpaul@bell.net](mailto:ljpaul@bell.net)

### **Food & Beverage**

Muskoka Spirits  
[www.Muskoka-spirits.ca](http://www.Muskoka-spirits.ca)

Bulldog Renovations

(705) 321-6860

<https://www.bulldogrenos.ca/>

### **Leisure Activities &**

#### **Learning**

Grouped

I Know a Guy Cottage

Services

Grounded

[hello@groundedgardens.ca](mailto:hello@groundedgardens.ca)  
[groundedgardens.ca](http://groundedgardens.ca)

Highlands Internet Services  
(705) 766-2372  
[info@highlandsinternet.ca](mailto:info@highlandsinternet.ca)

On The Water Designs  
(866) 477-0177 ext. 107  
[bbackus68@gmail.com](mailto:bbackus68@gmail.com)

R&J Machine Docking and  
Lifts  
(705) 652-6731  
[www.rjmachine.ca](http://www.rjmachine.ca)

Riverview Furniture and  
Flooring  
(705) 286-3167  
[www.riverview-furniture.com](http://www.riverview-furniture.com)  
[info@riverview-furniture.com](mailto:info@riverview-furniture.com)

**Marinas**

Mountain Trout House  
Marina  
(705) 766-2292  
[www.mthmarina.com](http://www.mthmarina.com)

Old Mill Marina (Kawagama  
Lake Marina)  
(705) 766-2214  
[www.oldmillmarina.ca](http://www.oldmillmarina.ca)  
<https://kawagamamarina.ca>

Services

(416) 559-4523  
[vanderveenboyd@gmail.com](mailto:vanderveenboyd@gmail.com)

Lake of Bays Septic Service  
(705) 766-9511  
[dorsetsanitation@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetsanitation@gmail.com)

MacKay Construction  
(705) 766-1308

Rave Contracting Services  
(705) 783-5359  
[www.ravecontracting.ca](http://www.ravecontracting.ca)  
[info@ravecontracting.ca](mailto:info@ravecontracting.ca)

Ravenwood Joinery  
(647) 217-7239  
[brad\\_c\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto:brad_c_s@hotmail.com)

Sunrise Tree Services Ltd  
(705) 767-4670  
[www.sunrisetree.ca](http://www.sunrisetree.ca)

TMB & Associates  
Anthony Staughton  
(705) 641-0955  
[anthony@tbmassociates.ca](mailto:anthony@tbmassociates.ca)

**Non-Profits**

Dorset Community Health  
Hub  
(705) 766-0866

<https://www.gamamama.ca>

[m/](#)

**Real Estate**

Forest Hill Real Estate  
Mike & Sabrina Baum, Greg  
Metcalf  
The Baum Team  
(705) 817-0627

[www.baumteamdorset.com](http://www.baumteamdorset.com)

Royal LePage Lakes of  
Muskoka  
Penny Kiely  
(705) 783-8087

[penny@ripdorset.com](mailto:penny@ripdorset.com)

[www.pennykiely.com](http://www.pennykiely.com)

ROYAL LePAGE Lakes of  
Muskoka  
Ryan Dignard  
(519) 732-8093

[www.ryandignard.royallepag](http://www.ryandignard.royallepage.ca)

[e.ca](#)

Coldwell Banker, Team  
Wiley  
Ellen Wiley & Terri Brown  
(705) 788-4060 or (705) 788-  
4399

[www.TEAMWILEY.ca](http://www.TEAMWILEY.ca)

Dorset Heritage Museum  
(705) 766-0323

Dorset Lions Club

Huntsville Hospital  
Foundation  
(705) 789-4756

Moorelands Kids

[www.moorelandskids.com](http://www.moorelandskids.com)

## **Advertise in the KLCA'S REFLECTIONS 2026 Yearbook**

### **Exclusive Access to the KLCA Membership**

Showcase your business to close to 900 Kawagama and Bear Lake cottagers and residents and their extended families and guests by advertising in **Reflections 2026**. Our membership list is not available outside of the KLCA, so this is the best way to reach our members.

### **Great Value!**

A range of advertising opportunities are available. Each ad placement you buy also entitles your business to be **featured five times** on the Kawagama and Bear Lakes KLCA community Facebook Page during the current calendar year. **Learn more about our advertising options by clicking the button below.**

ADVERTISE IN REFLECTIONS

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Ads must be purchased by March 1st, 2026** to be featured in Reflections 2026.

**Ad artwork deadline is March 15, 2026.**

Please direct questions to: **[advertising@klca.org](mailto:advertising@klca.org)**.

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**Municipal Affairs & Development Update:**

## County of Haliburton Policy Update

### Short Term Rental By-law:

As of **October 1, 2024**, anyone operating a short-term rental (STR) in the Township of Algonquin Highlands and the Municipality of Dysart et al must comply with a new licensing By-law introduced by the County of Haliburton. This new regulation affects all legally established residential dwellings rented out for fewer than 28 consecutive nights.

These By-laws were adopted to improve public safety, enforce local regulations, and provide municipalities with better tools to manage nuisance properties. As one Councillor put it, the objective is to “control bad actors on the lake” – a concern shared by both seasonal and full-time residents on Kawagama Lake.

To operate an STR, you must obtain a license from the Township of Algonquin Highlands or Municipality of Dysart. The application fee in the Township of Algonquin Highlands is \$500, with an annual fee if \$250. In the Municipality of Dysart, the application and annual licencing fee is \$500.

The following is what you need to submit as part of this application:

- Proof of Ownership (e.g., deed or title);
- Proof of general liability insurance of at least \$2 million;
- A signed sworn declaration stating that the property is free of Building Code and Zoning By-law compliance issues;
- Photos of the front and rear of the property;
- A Zoning Declaration confirming that STRs are permitted;
- Septic system details, including the number of bedrooms served;
- A detailed Fire Safety Plan including room use, exits, locations of alarms and fire extinguishers, and all gas and electric appliances;

- An Exterior Site Plan showing:
  - All buildings and structures
  - Wells and sewage systems
  - Parking areas with dimensions
  - Setbacks from property lines and the high-water mark

### **Dysart et al. Policy Update**

The Municipality of Dysart et al. is considering an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment that would permit the construction of one roofed accessory structures within the shoreline area, defined as the area within 30 metres of the high-water mark.

The proposed policy would allow such a structure to have a maximum floor area of 15 m<sup>2</sup> and height of 3.5 metres. To obtain approval, the Municipality is considering requiring either a Site Plan Agreement or the submission of a Shoreline Report achieving a score of 100 percent under the Lake Health Assessment Program.

Under the current regulations, all new development must maintain a 30-metre setback from the high-water mark, or a 20-metre setback in the case of existing undersized lots. The proposed policy would introduce limited permissions for certain small accessory structures within the shoreline setback, subject to strict controls. Only one roofed structure, such as a sauna, shed, or gazebo, would be permitted within 30 metres of the high-water mark. Sheds and saunas would require a setback of at least 3 metres from the high-water mark, while gazebos could be constructed at the high-water mark, provided they are not located on docks.

This policy direction reflects a response to the increasing number of minor variance applications seeking relief from shoreline setback requirements to allow small accessory

buildings. The proposed amendment is intended as a balanced approach that offers flexibility to landowners while ensuring that the shoreline remains highly vegetated and protected. By requiring enhanced natural shoreline conditions in exchange for the new permissions, the Municipality aims to mitigate potential environmental impacts from primary development such as dwellings and septic systems. It is also anticipated that this approach will reduce the volume of minor variance applications considered by the Committee of Adjustment.

The existing and proposed policies contrast with that of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, which permits one accessory structure within 12 metres of the shoreline as-of-right. Algonquin also has less restricted policies with respect to boathouses and do not require a Site Plan Agreement or Shoreline Report. Residents who wish to oppose the proposed policy changes may submit a written letter to the Municipality outlining their concerns and the reasons for their opposition.

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### **Lake Levels Update:**

Extreme weather events can greatly affect our lake level and make it difficult to maintain lake level targets. Such was the case in mid-January when we received over 60 mm of rain beginning January 9th. By January 19 the lake had risen about 5 1/2 inches and on that day, it began to drop. As of January 26, it is within 2.5 inches of target.

It's important to have levels close to target as the lake freezes. High levels during this period can cause shoreline damage and unstable ice conditions. (Kawagama is gradually lowered until around March



## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



*Caption: Will Boake (on far right) with his crew.*

### **Recognizing Wil Boake**

*Will has been a tireless supporter of the KLCA's annual Regatta event for 10 years, leading the purchasing, delivery, set-up and tear-down of the BBQ table, along with a stellar crew of volunteer cooks. Always with a smile and a "yes", Will exemplifies giving back with gusto.*

*Thank you Will, for all the dedication, time, and energy you have devoted to supporting the KLCA Regatta and the Kawagama and Bear Lakes communities!*

**1. How long have you been a cottager on Kawagama Lake?**

My Family and I spent our first summer on Kawagama Lake in 2015. We had visited friends on the lake in previous years and fell in love with the community, the unspoiled landscape, and the chill vibe. We now refer to it affectionately as “Our Happy Place.” We enjoy hosting friends and family and sharing this small piece of paradise with our lake friends.

**2. How long have you been the regatta BBQ coordinator?**

I have been organizing the Regatta BBQ for 10 years now. During our first summer on the lake, I assisted with the day-of regatta set-up and was committed to doing more. An opportunity came to take over the reins from Cathy Cully- who had run a great operation for years! The responsibility came with a well-know cast of characters from Porcupine Bay who were the anchor BBQ chefs- 3 wonderful couples who have been making wonderful BBQ burgers and dogs since before my time. What a pleasure it has been to work with these fine fellow cottagers.

**3. Where is your cottage on the lake?**

Our cottage is at the mouth of Wolfe inlet, where the inlet lets out into the big part of the lake- a short paddle from Mooreland’s camp-the site of the Kawagama Lake annual regatta. Our dock location affords us direct sun into the late evening- a source of many missed meals and lots of hydration. This may also have something to do with our great neighbours too 😊.

**4. Best regatta memory?**

A couple come to mind. We had one young volunteer teenager

A couple come to mind. We had one young volunteer teenager from the lake who took on the BBQ a few years ago. He was a little timid cooking among our seasoned BBQ hero's but stepped up anyway. He has since enrolled in culinary school and is chasing a dream working with food. Another would be participating in the Regatta Tandem blade with a close friend and neighbor-adorned in Mexican wrestling masks and winning. More recently teaming up with the younger generation and working hard to win some hardware in the four-blade event. Finally, working harder each year with the team to try and raise more money than we did the year before for Mooreland's Camp. All great memories.

#### **5. Best Kawagama memory?**

So many celebrations. Definitely. Celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, reunions, Thanksgivings, musical events, long overdue visits, lake events, new friends, old friends...the common thread is celebrating. The lake provides the perfect place to celebrate, and with that memories are created. Many of the people I continue to celebrate with I met through volunteer work at the Regatta. I am grateful for the opportunity and experience and highly recommend it to anybody who wants to meet some fantastic people on the lake.



## **KLCA REGATTA 2026**





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Mark your calendars for **Saturday August 1st from 11am - 3 pm** for the annual KLCA Regatta! Join us for this annual tradition that brings together over 300 cottagers for a fun-filled day of waterfront activities for all ages, great food, and prizes -- all for a great cause.

The KLCA Regatta raises funds every year for [Moorelands Camp](#), which provides life-changing experiences for economically disadvantaged children. Each summer, kids are transported to Moorelands on Kawagama's shores for a week of fun, friendship, and character building activities. Last year, **the Regatta raised \$5,000 for Moorelands.**

### **Sign Up to Volunteer at the Regatta!**

In order to make this incredible event come together each year, we rely on the support of many volunteers. There are many important roles to fill, from hamburger flippers, lifeguards and judges, to setup, cleanup and more!

We are looking for volunteers to lead two high-impact roles:

## Volunteer Leads - Raffle Table and BBQ

To volunteer, please sign-up by clicking the button below or contact our new **Regatta Chair, Jill Anderson** at: [jill@jillandersonci.com](mailto:jill@jillandersonci.com)

VOLUNTEER NOW!



## NEW AT MOORELANDS CAMP



### EXPERIENCE KAWAGAMA!

**Kawagama Day Camp July 6 to August 14, 2026**

Kawagama Day Camp is an adventurous camp program that takes place on the shores of Kawagama Lake. Designed for campers in Grades 1–6, each day is filled with exploration

campers in grades 1-5, each day is filled with exploration, activities and epic experiences in nature.

Immersed in the great outdoors, campers dive into action-packed days filled with fun, friendship and adventures.

**Sessions run Monday to Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. - each day includes a hot lunch.**

Applications are now open!

Apply here: [Kawagama Day Camp](#)

### **Kawagama Adventures**

Embark on an exciting outdoor experience with Kawagama Adventures—where fun, challenge and connection come together. Book a two-hour experience or create a custom adventure for you or your group. Take on the climbing wall, sharpen your aim in archery or bring your energy to our outdoor sports courts.

Designed for individuals, groups and special events, each two-hour experience includes two activity options, with the freedom to customize your own adventure!

**Moorelands Camp** is run by Moorelands Kids, a charitable organization that offers life-changing experiences for kids from economically disadvantaged communities. Learn more at:

[Moorelands.ca](#)

LEARN MORE



SAVE THE DATE FOR

# STARRY SUMMER NIGHT 2026!



**Starry Summer Night** returns in 2026 on **Saturday, August 15** at Moorelands Camp on beautiful Kawagama Lake!

This annual Bash is more than just a fundraiser—it's a summer highlight filled with laughter, connection, and a whole lot of heart. Whether you've been part of lake life for decades or you're brand new to the community, this is the kind of night everyone looks forward to. Think great food, drinks, creative themes, and an incredible group of people coming together for a meaningful cause.

If you're new to the lake, a little about us: Starry Summer Night is heading into its 10th year, and in 2026, we will proudly surpass an incredible milestone — **\$1 million raised in support of Moorelands Camp**. What started as a simple idea to help raise funds for the camp has grown into a beloved

idea to help raise funds for the camp has grown into a beloved annual tradition powered by community spirit and generosity.

Each year, local businesses and service providers play a huge role in making the Bash such a success. Through their generous sponsorships, silent and live auction donations, and financial contributions, their support helps us make a lasting impact for Moorelands Camp.

Moorelands Camp provides children with the opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen social connections, and stay active in the great Canadian outdoors—right here on our beautiful lake. Moorelands is committed to accessibility, offering a low-cost camp experience and providing financial assistance to every family who qualifies, ensuring no child is left out.

If you're a local business or service provider interested in becoming a sponsor, or would like to join our amazing volunteer team, we would love to connect with you.

Please reach out to **Doug Paul** or **Jody McCombe** at: [starrysummernightformoorelands@gmail.com](mailto:starrysummernightformoorelands@gmail.com).

Stay tuned and visit our Facebook page for theme, ticket launch, and more exciting details!

MORE SSN UPDATES





Know someone who would like to join the KLCA? Tell them to sign up here:

[JOIN NOW!](#)

Every donation helps us preserve the heritage and community of our lake.

[DONATE NOW!](#)

Follow Us



*KLCA Newsletter Editor: Carol Davies*

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KLCA, P.O. Box 98 Dorset, ON P0A  
1A0

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