



President's Fall Newsletter

Greetings to all,

While we have certainly enjoyed a milder than usual fall, the now repeating daily high temperatures in single digits and the first snow is a sure sign that things are changing fast. It has been an interesting summer. Less scary than the summer of 2020, with more hope and optimism as the vaccines are rolled out across the province. With this improving outlook, we were able to host some of our planned agenda for the summer, with the sailing regatta running on a beautiful, yet nearly calm day – but more on this later. As we say good-bye to summer 2021 with fond memories, we can look forward to winter and all the lake has to offer. For those who have not been to the lake in the “off-season”, I encourage you to come for at least a day – it is truly a magical place with much to offer.



MLCA Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting, the membership elected a new slate of volunteer directors. Each Director has volunteered to focus their energy on specific areas where their skill, knowledge, experience, and energy can best be applied to advance the Board’s objectives to serve the membership.

Ted Alley – President	Vacant – Vice President*
Barb Vandevalk – Secretary-Treasurer	Tim Luke – Past President, -- Nominating Committee Chair
John Ouzounis – Communications	Deb Marcellus – Membership Committee
Jessica Roher – Legal Counsel	Nancy Thornhill – Lake Steward
Ted Nixon – Safe Boating	John Aitken – Property Maintenance
Wendy Campbell – Community Events	

*Note – John Goshulak is expected to be voted in as Vice President at the November board meeting. John will also be managing the liaison with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) amongst other duties.

Many years ago, the role of Secretary and Treasurer had been combined with one Board member. More recently, the roles were split to accommodate an excessive workload during a project to modernization of membership accounts. With that project long complete, at our last Board meeting in September, it was agreed the roles of Secretary and Treasurer would be once again combined as it was many years ago, and Barb Vandevalk has graciously volunteered to take on both roles. Thanks Barb.

We also have non-Board Member volunteers who help in specific committees
Wanda Warrick – Nominating Committee
Rick Hurst – Nominating Committee
Esther Ewing – Worship Services

There is much work to be done to make a the MLCA run well, and this can only be done with the help from volunteers. If you are interested in joining our fun group to give back to the Lake community, please contact Tim Luke, Chair of our Nominating Committee, at 416-464-0470

Lake Plan

It is important for the Muldrew community to have a formalized Lake Plan that is presented to the Town of Gravenhurst (TOG) so they understand the will of the people on the lake. Having a Lake Plan with the Town, for example, provides them with the means and guidance to establish policies regarding development, redevelopment, environmental issues, water and lake-use issues and the like. Ultimately, the content in the Lake Plan makes its way into the TOG bylaws to reflect the goals and aspirations of the lake community. For those of you who attended the AGM in August, got this first-hand. For those of you who did not attend, please [see our website for the full report](#).

We are advancing with Phase 2 which is to prepare formal applications to the Town of Gravenhurst for amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw to include an updated set of Muldrew-specific policies. These policies will be derived directly from the Muldrew property-owners' feedback to the survey conducted last year and which was communicated in the various town-hall meetings. The cost of this Phase 2 would be approximately \$13,000 and funding was discussed at length at the AGM. One thing that was perhaps not stressed clearly enough was that the bulk of the funding for this Phase 2 is already in hand through past fundraising events, with only a small portion still to be funded through fundraising events such as the Silent Auction. The Board fully expect to be able to raise the funds needed in the upcoming fundraising events without any additional request of the membership.

Constitutional Amendment – a review

In the lead up to the AGM, the Board presented the membership with several updates and revisions to the MLCA Constitution. All proposed updates were passed by member votes. The highlights of the changes were:

- To revise the definition of Associate Member, to allow anyone to join the MLCA who is associated with an eligible property, regardless of whether they are referred by a Primary Member.

- This will be more inclusive of those who rent or visit the lake in different capacities, and we hope that more individuals are encouraged to join the MLCA and take part in our community as Associate Members.
- We also modernized some of our administrative practices, for example, to allow Board meetings to be held by phone or by videoconference.

Summer Events recap

While most of the planned events were cancelled as they were in 2020, we were able to host the canoe lessons. Managed again by Janet Allen and Liz Stinson and backed up by a long list of volunteer instructors and helpers, the event was a success although on a much smaller scale given the Covid outside group size protocols in place at the time. A huge thank you is also extended to the Stinson family for allowing the Muldrew canoers to use their island beach as the meeting place and launch site.

Sailing Regatta. Special thanks go out to Andrew White who organized the Sailing Regatta and to Heather Gornall as the official starter and to Liam White for setting up the course and running the safety boat.

1st place for the fast boats - Deb Montross Memorial Trophy - **William (Bill) Gornall**

1st place for sunfish/sailfish - Peter Quentin Memorial Trophy - **Izzie Morris-Smale**

Congratulations to all our sailors.

Local Town info

Garbage Bin Transition Plan

There are two “unlicensed” garbage bin sites serving Muldrew cottages who are water-access only – one is beside the garages at the North Lake Landing and the other is about 1km up South Muldrew Lake Rd from Pecks Landing. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has mandated that The District Municipality of Muskoka (District) remove all unlicensed waste bin sites by 2023. As such, the District is required to create and follow a transition plan to remove these bins and establish alternative protocols for garbage and recycling for these locations, such as setting up roadside collection or directing property owners to the nearest waste transfer site.

In the recent report from the Mayor’s office, of the 88 bins in the District, 19 have been transitioned to alternative garbage management solutions. Forty-six additional locations are slated for transitioning in 2022. While the transition plan for the bins serving Muldrew has not been initiated, the implication is that “our” bins will be transitioned to alternative protocols in 2023. So, we have a short reprieve until then. Please remember, these bins are for water-access cottages only. All other property owners are encouraged to arrange for solid bear-proof garbage containers for roadside collection or deliver your garbage and recycling to the Beiers Rd Transfer Station.

Town Council Contacts

Muldrew straddles both Ward 2 and 3. Ward 2 includes all of North Muldrew and the NW shore of Middle Muldrew. Ward 3 includes all of South Muldrew and the SE shore of Middle Muldrew. Your Councillors are as follows.

- Jo Morphy (705-479-8927) is the Councillor for Ward 2
- Steven Klinck (705-305-9282) is the Councillor for Ward 3

The Town Website is www.gravenhurst.ca

Winter Inspections

While the MLCA no longer manages a winter inspection program, such inspections have been popular. The MLCA is delighted to share that it has negotiated a 10% MLCA Member discount with Trevor Cook. Trevor has serviced several Muldrew cottagers and residents with marine services and other work around their properties. Please see below for the details from TC Marine.



Trevor@tcmarine.ca 705.205.0860

After 6 years of serving Muldrew Lakes boating needs we are proud to announce that we are now offering Winter Cottage Inspections. We are here to bring peace of mind that your cottage will be well looked after in your absence.

Our Services Include

- Cottage Inspections
- Photo Updates (If Requested)
- Detailed Inspection Reports
- Roof/Deck Snow clearing
- Winter Storm Cleanup
- Bubbler Checks
- MLCA Members discount



Cottage Inspection



Roof/Deck Clearing



Winter Storm Cleanups



Bubbler Checks

Water Quality Testing

Public Health Ontario provides a free service to get your drinking water tested. You can pick up test bottles at the rear of the Gravenhurst Town Office and take the samples back to the same location.

Lake water sampling

Each year the Muskoka District samples our established sites to determine which benthic macroinvertebrates are found. These benthos indicate the health of the riparian zone (section between shallow water and dry land) and the littoral zone (shallow water nearest to dry land). These two zones are especially important to lake health as they are impacted by snowmelt, runoff, sedimentation, etc.

A special thanks to the Livingston family for helping out with the sampling this year. The collected benthos are grouped into seven (7) different categories, in which three (3) are mainly focused on: EOT*, Chironomids, and Richness.

- The % EOT includes mayflies, dragonflies, and caddisflies, which are benthic macroinvertebrates who are **intolerant** to pollution.
- The % Chironomids is focused on the invertebrate named a Midge (or blood worm) which are **tolerant** to pollution and can survive in harsh environments.
- Richness is the biodiversity of species found within the sample, and with biodiversity, the more the better.

* EOT is an index of water quality – based on three orders of bugs; Ephemeroptera, Odonata and Trichoptera (EOT) – (basically mayflies, dragonflies and damselflies, and caddisflies) Sensitive taxa – so higher % of EOT would indicate good water quality.

With these numbers alongside the Muskoka Average, we can understand the direction the lake is heading regarding shoreline and lake health. If the % EOT (intolerant) is low, and % Chironomids (tolerant) is high, this indicates that the environment may not be suitable for the intolerant benthic invertebrates. This indicates to us that this section of the lake may be impacted by sources such as development, runoff, or other anthropogenic sources.

Results from the water testing in Muldrew (Patterson's Bay) on July 27th, 2021 revealed the following:

- % EOT is at 34. This area is the main indicator of good water quality, since these species are pollutant intolerant. Having it this far above the Muskoka average of 17 is very good.
- % Chironomids is at 13. This is just above the average of 12 observed in Muskoka.
- Richness is at 14. As stated above, richness is important as it represents biodiversity within the lake. Biodiversity shows that there is a healthy relationship between benthos. This is equal to the average observed in Muskoka and is a great value!

So, as a snapshot, it appears the water quality is good relative to the average of the Muskoka Lakes. However, it is critically important to continually collect data from the established sites located across Muldrew Lakes. This ensures a large amount of data is collected over time to enable the discovery of trends in lake quality to give us the earliest notification if water quality is deteriorating.

Lymantria dispar dispar or LDD Moth (commonly known as the Gypsy Moth)

LDD are an invasive species that many of us had to deal with in varying degrees. Some areas were barely touched this year, but for others, it was like late autumn in the spring, with living trees having all their leaves eaten, leaving only the branches and leaf stems. To prevent or reduce the level of infestation next spring, members are encouraged to survey your property for any egg masses that have been left behind, typically on tree trunks and the underside of branches, but you can also find them on wood piles, sheltered exterior building walls, underside of furniture etc. You can help your next-year's infestation by removing as many of the egg masses as you can find – each egg mass contains 300-400 eggs. Several methods can be used to neutralize/kill the eggs, perhaps the simplest is to scrape the egg masses into a container of warm soapy water for 24-48 hours. Each caterpillar will eat 1 m² of leaves so you can see that even as few as 5-8 egg masses can result in a loss of 40% of the foliage in the tree canopy. The challenge is that most egg masses are beyond reach high up in the trees, so even the most diligent effort to collect egg masses won't ensure no infestation. See the attached link here for more details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5gn-zG9JYw>

Spraying for LDDs

As many of you will recall from our AGM on August 21, we had a great discussion about the potential for spraying for LDDs next spring. It's important to note that signing up for this must be done by each individual property owner to request spraying their own property; the MLCA cannot make a blanket spray arrangement for the entire lake.

The Ontario Centre for Forest Defoliator Control are acting as a consolidation house for those property owners wanting to spray their property. The OCFDC is working with Zimmer Air based in Blenheim, Ontario (SW of London) for 2022. Anyone wishing to have LDD spraying done should register now with the OCFDC for the 2022 spraying season at 1-888-276-9702 or follow the links at <https://www.ocfdc.com/>. Registration takes 5 minutes to answer the 10 questions on the form and must be done if the spraying is to take place. Everyone will need their tax roll number, 15 Digit Tax Roll number is of high importance, and addresses, and contact information. Use the County as "Muskoka" and the Group or Cottage Association as "Muldrewe Lakes Cottagers' Association".

Aerial Spraying against LDD is done with a substance called Btk* that is atomized on the trees and when the caterpillars start eating, they ingest the Btk, and it kills them. Cost for next year is \$368/acre plus tax as a base price plus an additional \$99 plus tax for each additional acre. Zimmer requires a contract with each landowner so establishing a contract early is advisable. 2 applications are recommended for Btk.

***What is Btk?**

- Bacteria are present everywhere in our natural environment: in soil, food and even on our skin. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is a bacterium found naturally in the soil.

- Bt is known to cause illness in many insect larvae, including caterpillars of pest species such as Lymantria moth, spruce budworm and cabbage looper.
- More than 20 varieties of Bt exist. The "kurstaki" variety (Btk) is used to control caterpillars.
 - There are many strains within each variety. The HD-1 strain of Btk is used for caterpillar control.
- Bt pest-control products have been registered for use in Canada for over 30 years.
- Btk has no known toxic effects on humans, other mammals, plants, birds, fish, or honeybees or other beneficial insects.
- After more than 30 years of Btk use and research around the world, Canada, the United States and most other countries where Bt products are currently registered consider it safe and have declared it exempt from pesticide residue tolerances on food crops.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/forest-health/invasive-forest-pests/lymantria/what-is-btk>

MLCA Properties

Winter Preparations at Memorial Pines

This fall special thanks go to Tim Luke, Jonathan Lloyd-Smith, John Ouzounis, John Goshulak, Bruce Gottzmann, Arthur Walker-Jones and Matt and Ben Alexander for helping this fall in disconnecting the docks at Memorial Pines to ready them for the winter.



Pecks Landing

Also, thanks to Stephen Gillies, Jonathan Lloyd-Smith, and Tim Luke for their work to winterize the docks at Pecks Landing.

Capital Budget

MLCA owns several docks and other structures:

- the fixed dock at North Lake Landing,
- 6 docks plus stairs, ramps, seats and the pulpit at Memorial Pines,
- 8 docks and a boathouse at Pecks Landing.

All of these require some care and maintenance and, at some point in time, replacement. The Board recognizes the need to plan for the day replacement is required and so is preparing a Capital Assets Budget to prepare for this future expense when the docks reach the end of their useful lives. More details to follow.

Lumber Donations

If any member has any excess Pressure Treated lumber in 2x6 or 2x8 by minimum 6 feet in length they want to get rid of, please contact me at president@muldrewlakes.ca to arrange pick-up.

In Closing

On behalf of the MLCA Board, I wish you all a healthy and prosperous remainder of the year and look forward to sharing more details of all things Muldrew in the spring. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at president@muldrewlakes.ca, or I can be reached on my mobile at 647-986-5066.

Ted Alley
President, MLCA