



MLA DIRECTORS

The MLA's volunteer team includes an 18-member Board of Directors, six of whom are also officers of the Association. It's a remarkable group, who volunteer a great amount of their time and expertise to help the MLA run its programs, protect Muskoka and build our community.

RETIRING DIRECTORS

At our annual general meeting (AGM) in July, we recognized the five directors retiring from the board. On behalf of all members, we thank Sam Daviau, Gord Dorrett, Dayle Hogg, Sandy McNair and Stephen Sims for their countless hours of work to move the MLA forward.



Sam Daviau has been a director and our member of our Communications + Membership (C+M) and Environment committees during his three-year term, and was the brains behind our digital transformation, including our new website, and new membership software.



Gord Dorrett has been a director and a member of Government & Land Use Committee (GLUC) for two years and added huge value to our advocacy on a number of files, with his expertise in landscape architecture.



Dayle Hogg spent four years as a director and member of GLUC, and six years as chair of our working group that reviews municipal budgets. He also broadened GLUC's work to include the Torrance Barrens dark sky reserve.



Sandy McNair has been a director and member of three committees – GLUC, Environment and C+M – during his three-year term. He has always added great value to discussions through his creative ideas and insights and we were fortunate to have had him participate in the working group that created our Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026.



Stephen Sims spent six years as a director and member of GLUC and the Environment Committee, where he was always a wise and insightful contributor. Stephen also used his writing skills as editor of our monthly *NewsBites* newsletter during his final few years on the board.

NEW DIRECTORS

Five new directors were appointed for three-year terms at our July AGM, and we are excited that they have joined our team.



Michael Collins previously worked for TD Bank, and now works in international development finance. Michael has significant board and strategic planning experience and was involved in recommending enhancements to the United Nations Green Climate Fund, and a number of international affordable housing initiatives. Michael spent summers in Muskoka, growing up, and owns a cottage on Lake Muskoka.



Lisa Khoo, her husband and niece are island cottagers near Spirit Bay on Lake Muskoka. Lisa has significant board and governance experience and worked for more than 30 years as a senior journalist and producer with the CBC, including at *The Current* and *The National*. Lisa also has extensive credentials on diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

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President's MESSAGE



I hope you've had a wonderful summer in Muskoka — it has certainly been productive for the MLA, and there's lots of positive news to report.

Since my last President's Message, the MLA has had remarkable advocacy success with municipal councils, a direct result of electing many candidates whose views on Muskoka and its future align with our members'

views. Councils are making many decisions to prioritize the environment, ensure that development is undertaken responsibly, and protect our lakes, rivers and forests for all generations to value and enjoy.

In the Township of Muskoka Lakes (where all 10 candidates we supported were elected), the strong Official Plan language we advocated has been approved, discouraging the condominium form of ownership for resorts, and requiring that aggregate operations be more than 2 km from shorelines. In Gravenhurst (where many candidates we supported were elected), an egregious proposal at Muskoka Wharf was defeated. That proposal initially included a two-storey boathouse running 192 metres (630 ft!) into the bay, blocking a public park. And in Seguin, proposed new shoreline protection by-laws include additional hurdles for blasting.

Being able to hold our annual general meeting in person again drew a record turnout by our members, who were treated to cocktails (including our signature '1894' cocktail) and a teaser of the new exhibits at the Muskoka Discovery Centre. We honoured four retiring directors and presented them with engraved paddles in appreciation for their dedication and contributions to the MLA. We then welcomed four new directors who bring valuable expertise and perspectives to our board. You can read about them in this issue.

One key to the MLA's success over 130 years has been passionate volunteers, and this was demonstrated again by our 100-person strong water quality testing team who worked throughout the summer. Their findings are now being assessed by our environmental consultant and compiled for the District of Muskoka for policy development and decision making. New reports tell us that our watershed is showing signs of stress and decline, so our testing work is becoming even more important.

There was huge excitement and energy at our annual aquatic regatta at Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club, with almost double the number of participants over 2022. I learned that the club was founded by MLA directors looking for a permanent

home for the regatta, which gives great peace of mind knowing that the future of our event, which has been enjoyed by so many families through the generations, will be supported.

The MLA often collaborates with other groups to increase the impact of our work, such as our boating safety webinar with Safe Quiet Lakes, and government submissions with Friends of Muskoka. We are happy to work alongside others and contribute the MLA's credibility as Canada's oldest cottagers' association, as well as our volunteers' expertise, to protect the Muskoka we all treasure.

I hope you were able to drop by our MLA booth at one of the 21 farmers markets we attended across Muskoka this summer. We had wonderful conversations about our shared love of Muskoka and the issues the MLA is tackling, which motivated people to join and take our brochures to encourage their neighbours to join. Those conversations reminded us so strongly of what the MLA is all about — involvement spanning generations and recognizing that what we do today is to benefit not just ourselves, but those who will follow us.

Your continuing support means the MLA Board, volunteers and office staff can build on success to achieve more remarkable results to protect the Muskoka we all treasure.

I hope you take time to enjoy the beauty of this season, especially the magnificent fall colours!

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pgoad@mmr.ca
416-738-4412



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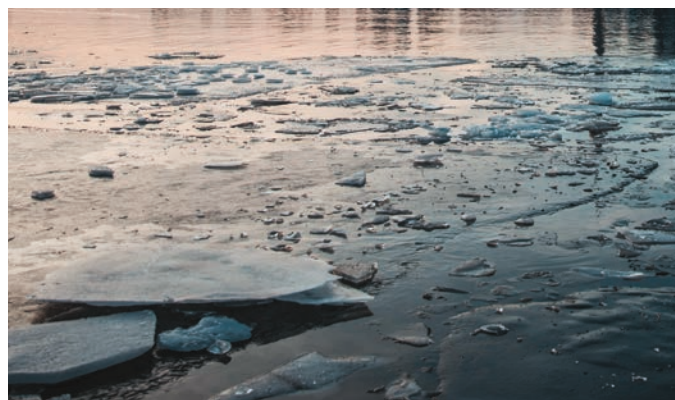
Cathie Mostowyk has been a member of the MLA's Communications + Membership and Community Engagement committees for more than six years. She is well recognized in the MLA for her generous willingness to volunteer. Her background is primarily with IBM in Canada and France. She and her husband have been full-time residents on Lake Rosseau in Seguin Township since 2014.



Kathy Ristic was the Bracebridge co-lead on the MLA's political action team for the October 2022 municipal election. Kathy has a very strong financial and entrepreneurial background. She has a long and deep connection to Muskoka, as a cottager on Browning Island in Lake Muskoka and as a director and secretary of the Browning Island Cottagers Association.



Steve Rohacek is a member of GLUC and has a strong background in municipal finance, which he uses to help the committee review and comment on municipal budgets. Steve is a director of the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association and its representative on the Muskoka Small Lakes Coalition. He advocated effectively during the TML Official Plan review on issues impacting smaller lakes, such as lake plans and recreational carrying capacity.



- A bubbler that's constantly popping circuit breakers, fuses or ground fault interrupter (GFI) plugs. Potential causes include moisture at the plug or connection, using a light-duty extension cord, and old or undersized fuses or circuit breakers;
- A bubbler that's installed at too shallow a depth will create a 'fountain' effect in spring, when the water level gets low, spraying water up onto the dock and coating it with ice, as well as not pushing enough warm water out to keep the dock clear of ice; and,
- Bubblers that twist the power cord and guy ropes. The ropes holding the bubbler need to be secured at least as far apart as the depth of the bubbler to remain stable.

BETTER BUBBLING THIS WINTER

As members start preparing their properties for the coming winter, we offer some practical advice on how to get the best performance from their bubbler systems. Thanks to Kurt Muntz, founder of Bubbler Buddy, for these highlights.

You need, at minimum: a bubbler, a blue light (to indicate a hazard), a "Danger, Open Water" sign, and a timer or thermostat, to regulate the bubbler's operation.

BUBBLER BEST PRACTICES:

- Ideally, the bubbler should be installed 2 – 2.5 metres below the water surface, and pointing straight up;
- Open water (created by the bubbler) should be contained to an area 3 – 5 metres out from the dock (see below); and,
- Monitor your bubbler's performance frequently to ensure it's operating properly.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE TROUBLE SIGNS:

- A long, narrow area of open water. This indicates that the bubbler is installed on an angle, and is pushing warm water along the shoreline or out into the lake;
- Similarly, a bubbler that opens up too much water (beyond 3 – 5 metres out from the dock) creates danger for neighbours, lake users and animals. Remedy this with a timer or thermostat;





11th Annual Food Drive



Giving Hope Today

August 28 to October 27

This year, all donations will be in support of

The Salvation Army

Drop Off Locations

- Olivers Coffee – Bracebridge
- Olivers Coffee – Gravenhurst
- Olivers Coffee – Port Carling
- Olivers Coffee – Bala
- Glen Orchard General Store
- Rosseau General Store
- Silver Stream Farms General Store
- Spirit Bay Harbour Marina
- Walkers Point Marina
- Campbells Landing Marina
- SWS Boatworks
- Hamer Bay Marina
- Gordon Bay Marina
- The Cove Marina
- Beaumaris Yacht Club
- Mortimers Marina
- MLA Office

Thank you for your Donations

New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA! From July 1 2023 to Sept 15 2023

Marc BELLINI	Erica MCLOUGHLIN	Peter SCOTT	Calvin J BARRY	Derek FREEL
Allison MCCREA	Dave KROCKER	Thelma JARVIS	Martin TOPP	Phil MCDOWELL
Donna SCOTT	Susan BOUDREAU	Megan VAUGHAN	Eric ABUGOV	Scott MACKENZIE
Kathleen SAVAGE	Tracey BUTTON	Joanne REID	Mandy NAGY	Graham NORWOOD
Chris DUIT	Brian COURTNEY	Catherine	Elizabeth "Lisa"	Juanita & George
Barbara BOWLBY	Keith DUNCAN	CABRAL-MAROTTA	DOTY	SHIPLEY
Brian HANSON	Michael OPARA	Lisa RITCHIE	Eric OLIVER	Anne STUART
Buzz GREEN	Edward SENEZ	Charlie	Rhondra LYMBURNER	David JOHNSON
Tom DIETRICH	Laura MORTON	Jed SCHNEIDERMAN	Chris BARUSIC	Karen DALTON
Jane MANCHEE	James OSBORNE	George KINZIE	Kevin HOWEY	

AN EMBARRASSMENT OF EMPTIES?



Just a quick reminder that when you're dropping off a contribution to the MLA'S annual food drive this fall, your empty beer, wine and liquor bottles and cans can benefit our community too!

Just drop them off at the District of Muskoka's Eveleigh Road transfer station — just west of Port Carling off Highway 118 — where the Port Carling Lions' Club will happily divert them from the landfill, turn them into cash and re-invest the proceeds into worthwhile community projects.



MLA 2023 PHOTO CONTEST

LAST
CALL!



Entries may be submitted by MLA members and their families in the categories of:

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Quiet times on the dock, boisterous play, cruising the lakes... show us how you and the people you love use the cottage.

MUSKOKA LIFE

Wildlife, gorgeous sunsets, recreation, solitude, nature. Show us what life in Muskoka means to you!

VISIT www.mla.on.ca for complete contest rules



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DOUG CROSS STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN HUTTON



Alan is a stalwart of the Muskoka Lakes water quality program, having served and led for more than 40 years. He graduated from the University of British Columbia as a mechanical engineer and led a wide range of successful corporate and entrepreneurial boards. Alan was a driving force in the fight against acid rain for Canada and Muskoka. Formerly commodore and vice president of the Muskoka Lakes Association, Alan became president of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain (CCAR), which launched in 1980 with 12 member groups and grew to include 52 member groups. Through judicious use of: cutting-edge science, widespread media coverage, and coalition building, CCAR

effectively lobbied governments in Canada and the United States to amend the U.S. Clean Air Act and establish corresponding regulatory action in Canada, in November of 1990. While this was a major and highly significant step forward, acid smog days persisted in Muskoka until the early 2000s, when the Province of Ontario dismantled its coal-powered electricity generation facilities. Alan was also part of the Ontario Medical Association's clean air advisory board, which doggedly pursued closure of the Ontario coal-fired generation facilities. All Muskoka is indebted to Alan for his leadership and achievements on this issue.

Alan continues to be active as a water sampler in Bala Bay where he and wife, Lindsay, three sons and two grandsons enjoy an 1890s summer home.

The background image shows a woman with blonde hair, identified as Christine Bell, P.N., working with a client. The logo for 'ENDURING beauty' is in the top right corner.

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Friends of the
Muskoka Watershed

Saturday, September 16

Saturday, October 21

Saturday, November 18

Saturday, January 20

Saturday, February 17

(Family Day weekend)

Saturday, March 16

Saturday, April 20

**9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1062 Rosewarne Dr.,
Bracebridge @ the Transfer Station.**

**To learn more about our ash work, visit:
fotmw.org/ashmuskoka-final-research-reports/**





Autumn is a great time to get back – to cool-weather stuff, like raking leaves, putting on snows, and daydreaming until you can get back to your cottage. It's also the perfect time to get back in touch with those cottage friends who aren't (yet) members of the MLA and encourage them to join. Just call the office with a name and contact info, we'll do the rest!



AUTUMN "GET BACK"

REFER A FRIEND AND BECOME AN MLA AMBASSADOR

DETAILS, TOOLS & SIGN UP

Contact us at newmembers@mla.on.ca
or by phone 705.765.5723

10 BOATING TIPS TO SAVE LIVES - WEBINAR <https://mla.on.ca/Webinars>

"I have been boating on the Muskoka Lkes, as an islander for over 30 years and was blown away by the safe boating webinar.. I encourage everyone to spend 35 minutes and watch this incredible Webinar". *Mark Diamond*



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Local's Corner

OHM LIFE

This charming women's shop moved from Port Carling to the village of Rosseau this year. We dropped in to chat with owner Sandra and, of course, to do a little shopping ourselves.

Cottage chic is probably the best way to describe Sandra's inventory. She carries a number of brands, including the Velvet, P.J. Salvage, and 360 Cashmere lines, among others.

Sandra moved to Rosseau — which she's loving — when she sold her building in Port Carling, where Ohm Life had operated for 16

years. Her faithful customers have followed her here, as they had enjoyed completing their seasonal wardrobes over the years.

Ohm Life will be open until mid-November and Sandra plans to be open weekends in December. She will continue to receive new inventory throughout the seasons.

Follow her on Instagram at [ohmlife_rossseau](https://www.instagram.com/ohmlife_rossseau).

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Cathie Mostowyk



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Contact Us

Muskoka Lakes Association, Box 298, 65 Joseph Street, Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0
P 705-765-5723 | F 705-765-3203 | E info@mla.on.ca | W www.mla.on.ca

