



Living in a Virtual World...

Now that the summer has ended and the fall is here in all its beauty, there is time to reflect on this past summer. Although it was not a normal one, it was certainly a memorable one. Many people may not have even known what ZOOM was 7 months ago, but we found ourselves relying on new technologies to keep in touch with those we work with and our loved ones. As the coronavirus continued to spread fast and furious through the world, we went on lockdown in March. Controversial or not, the people of Ontario, united, listened and followed the rules to keep the most vulnerable safe and limit the spread of COVID-19. This pandemic has not come without its challenges, but as long as we continue to stay vigilant and follow the guidelines of the government and public health, we will come out of this. Perhaps with a new perspective on our day to day life and a newfound appreciation of face to face interactions.

The MLA had to cancel most of its signature events and programs this season, including the Aquatic and Sailing Regattas, the MLA Antique Boat Show, our in-person seminars and our water quality testing program. All of this was done with a heavy heart, but with a clear purpose - the health and safety of our members, volunteers and staff were of the utmost importance to us.

As we re-group over the winter months, our committees will be planning for two scenarios for next summer. A hopeful, full programming summer and perhaps a more realistic, partial programming phase 3 summer. Phase 3 would be a welcomed alternative if we are not yet able to operate at full capacity. We are hopeful that things like a pre-ordered, pre-paid drive through pick up of seedlings could be scheduled, and our citizen scientists could get back out on their boats monitoring our water.

As this past season approached with lots of unknowns, we did plan modified programs to keep our members engaged and have some

opportunity to connect with each other. This started with our first official webinar hosted by the MLA - A Conversation with our Mayors.

Topics focused on what was happening in Muskoka, how we could all keep each other safe and addressed the mounting tensions between seasonal and full-time residents. This was so well received by our membership that we planned more Webinars. We partnered with Safe Quiet Lakes and one of our committee members, Scott Ferguson, did a joint webinar that addressed Wakes, Speed and Noise on our lakes along with a special night boating presentation.

We held another Webinar with Speaking of Wildlife, an animal rescue center. They introduced us to three of their native animals they take care of and shared with us details about the animals that make them unique. We got to see them up close and as personal as one can get on a webcam! We plan to host further webinars in the future, and welcome members to share with us topics of interest.

As the summer progressed and more cancellations needed to be made, next on the list was the MLA Aquatic Regatta that has been running for 126 years straight. So much history and family tradition is involved in this event that we wanted to keep the spirit alive. Our Regatta Chairs Roslyn Manchee and Jeff Patterson went virtual and created a #127MLARegatta Challenge that released a series of 4 videos over the month of July, leading up to the Regatta weekend, these were posted on the MLA's Facebook and Instagram pages. The challenges were things like 'How many ways can you put on a life jacket in 15 seconds', 'Paddle your boat wrong side up,' 'How to stay afloat, not in a boat', and 'Show us your best dunk!'. We encourage you to go to our website to view these video challenges. I am confident they will at least put a smile on your face. <https://mla.on.ca/Aquatic%20Regatta>. If next summer calls for continued modifications on group gatherings there could be more of these fun challenges in our future.

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President's MESSAGE



In a video chat in July, I took over the helm of the Muskoka Lakes Association from Lawton Osler who has filled this space for the last two years. A little anti-climactic to say the least. Lawton has done a tremendous job and I have big shoes to fill. Lawton put countless hours into files of importance to Muskoka and addressing concerns of the members. Perhaps you were someone who received a hand-written note or a personal email from him? Lawton, and indeed the

MLA, has had to deal with unprecedented times in Muskoka recently, including flooding and COVID. On behalf of the board of directors we thank Lawton for his service and leadership. We are fortunate that he wants to remain engaged in several files he was leading.

So let me introduce myself. I am a second-generation seasonal cottager on Lake Muskoka since 1955. When not in Muskoka I reside in Thornhill (Markham) Ontario with my husband Jim. I work in the environmental field with my specialty being aquatic ecology – a good fit for my work with the MLA. You can check me out on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborah-martin-downs-23669a7/> or on Twitter @CVC_CAO.

So it may come as no surprise that one of my themes for the next two years is the Muskoka environment. As I write we await the release of the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group's report that will outline the need for integrated watershed management and flood mitigation – something the MLA has been advocating for since the devastating floods of the past few years.

Every action in Muskoka ties back to the environment – development, wakes, noise, runoff - impact forests, water quality, wildlife and shorelines – or ‘our view from the canoe’. And our view from the canoe is what maintains our property values and drives tourism to the region.

The MLA works to promote the responsible use, enjoyment, and conservation of the unique Muskoka environment to preserve Muskoka

for future generations. Our voices need to be heard and informed by the opinions and experiences of our waterfront residents. Some of your voices have told us that we are not doing enough, some of you have jumped in to help. The more members, the larger the voice and the more resources to work on issues. We are a small, but mighty volunteer board.

I have 2 sons who have grown up at the cottage and almost 2 years ago I became a grandmother for the first time. Already she embraces the water, the forest, boats and floaties. It makes me reflect on engaging the next generation and to ensure the taxation and policy regimes of our municipalities will ensure that they have a fighting chance to continue to experience Muskoka. But we need to engage the next generation to make the MLA relevant to them. If you have grown up children frequenting the cottage, start by signing them up as a secondary member when you receive your membership renewal this year so that they start to receive our communications and begin to learn what it takes to conserve the unique Muskoka environment.

I look forward to the next two years leading the board. Please feel free to reach out with your feedback and suggestions to president@MLA.on.ca

Deborah Martin-Downs – President

New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA! From June 28, 2020 to September 28, 2020

Ian CLARK

Jeffrey CROCKER

Lake Joseph North Association

Carole Anne SIMPSON

Jay WRIGHT

Fred ZANDER



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Living in a Virtual World... *Continued from page 1*

Following the cancellation of the Aquatic Regatta came the cancellation of the Sailing Regatta. Although we could not hold any events related to sailing, Chair, Steve Phillips said we did play an important role in helping the Muskoka sailing clubs navigate the COVID rules and make their own programming plans. Most clubs held limited sailing school and adult club sailing programs.

The last and final tradition of the summer was the MLA Antique and Classic Boat Show, although the locks were not packed with people and the town was not filled with music from the live band, our committee did come up with an alternative activity to get those 'Wooden Boats in Motion' for all to witness. You can read and see images of this included in this newsletter.

Finally, even our end of season food drive cannot be done the same way. Normally donation bins are placed all around Muskoka at local businesses and marinas and donations received rotate between Manna, West Muskoka, and Salvation Army food banks. This year we encourage donations to any of the local food banks. The only local food bank that is taking actual food is the Salvation Army, so a bin for items to be dropped

off is at the MLA office, otherwise we ask that you please support the local foodbanks by going online and making a monetary donation. All information needed, and connections to their online donation page has been put up on our website. <https://mla.on.ca/MLA%20Food%20Drive%202020>

At time of writing this, at the end of September the pandemic continues, and cases are on the rise in Ontario. To date there are 95 active cases in Simcoe-Muskoka with 17 of these being in Muskoka. Since the start of the pandemic, Muskoka has now had 61 lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases with 43 recovered and unfortunately one death.

We must continue to follow the rules, support each other, support our local business, and most importantly continue to work together in our communities to stop the spread. Let's be kind to one another and stay healthy. Although we don't know exactly what the future holds at this time we can assure you, that your Board will be working hard to come up with safe and suitable programming to keep us all engaged on the important topics and fun side of cottaging that awaits us in 2021.

A Time for Thanks

This year, as Thanksgiving approaches, we hope you will be able to share it with those you love. May you be surrounded by family, friends, good food and good health, whether it is in person, or from a distance. We at the MLA are thankful for our dedicated volunteers, who devote hours of their free time to the MLA on issues that matter most in Muskoka but most of all, we are thankful for you, our members.

We would not be here without you. Together our voices can be heard. Together we can continue to preserve Muskoka for future generations. Thank you for your support. For those celebrating this weekend, and to our American friends who will celebrate in November, we wish everyone a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Safe Quiet Lakes | Share the Lakes Award 2020

This award recognizes an individual or organization whose energy and initiatives have resulted in significant, sustainable action that protects and ensures safe, quiet and respectful boating practices so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy the unique and peaceful environment of the Muskoka Lakes.

The 2020 recipient, John Bowlby is a past Director of the MLA Board and was one of the past Community Programs Chair and was lead Director



on the MLA Marine Patrol Team.

John's tireless efforts as a volunteer, working closely with Transport Canada and multiple safe boating organizations, have made our lakes a safer place to operate and we owe him a collective thank you!

John remains active on the MLA's Community Programs committee and acts as a wonderful resource to us for all things boating. Congratulations on the award John, we could not think of a more deserving recipient!

Flood Proofing Your Boathouse



Before you close the cottage for the season remember spring is coming!

Preparing for potential spring flooding means securing items in your boathouses and on your dock. Do you know how many Muskoka chairs go unclaimed and planters float around in the lake?

Please review the list below with some useful tips for closing.

1. Remove all non-critical items from your boathouse particularly those that can potentially pollute like paint cans, gas cans, oil etc. If they must remain ensure they are stored well above the high-water mark

2. Elevate and secure all remaining items to the

extent possible

3. Unplug all noncritical electrical items
 4. Lower tops on all boats inside
 5. Leave boathouse doors partially raised to allow for high waves and ice movement
 6. Clear your docks of all items
 7. Check and tighten all bolts and screws as they become loose each year with wood shrinkage and motion
 8. Remove or store at height boat bumpers, golf clubs, planter boxes, deck chairs and lights
 9. Flip up or remove dock ladders
- Watch for the MLA Flood Watch communication next year as we track spring runoff.

Wooden Boats in Motion - A Tradition in the Making?

The 2020 MLA Antique Boat Show was scheduled to take place on August 8th, 2020 this year. The show is one of the MLA's signature events that happens biannually. On a typical year, up to 75 of Muskoka's antique and classic wooden boats would make their way to the Port Carling locks, where they would dock and visitors from all over Muskoka and beyond would come to see them in all their glory. Due to COVID-19 this event was cancelled but this did not stop our Boat Show committee from putting together another way to celebrate the strong love and heritage of wooden boats in Muskoka.

The 2020 Boat Show committee instead thought we should put these boats in motion. All wooden boat enthusiasts were invited to get out on the water and cruise together. On the Lake Muskoka side, boats

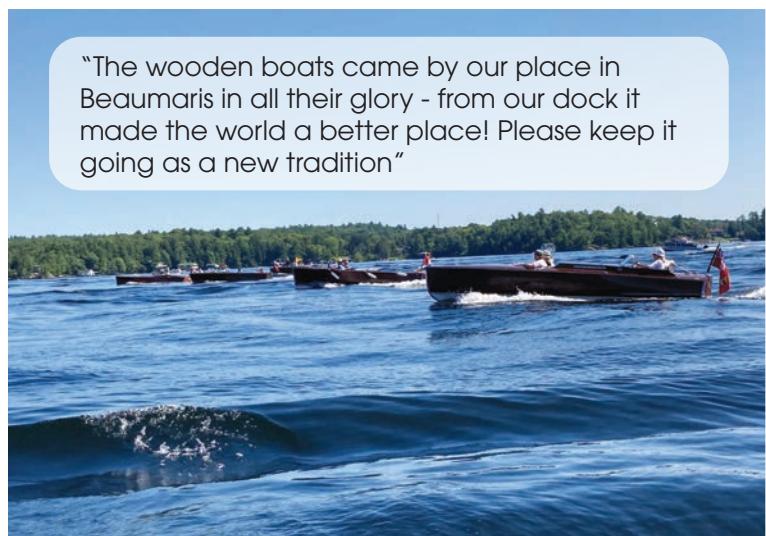
gathered at Mirror Lake on the Indian River and then followed their MLA leader Chris Vandergift in his antique boat 'Kindling'. The scene was spectacular as about 40 wooden boats emerged single file from the mouth of the Indian River and then fanned out for the tour. On the Lake Rosseau side, Rick Terry in his 1924 Ditchburn 'Wigwassan III' led the flotilla on a cruise circumnavigating Tobin Island. Mother nature was on our side, and it turned out to be the perfect day for a cruise.

We had such great feedback that the committee is looking at making this more than a one off event. Perhaps this alternate way to celebrate has now become a tradition.

Send us your thoughts if you hope to see this event each year, or on opposite years of the boat show. info@mla.on.ca



"The wooden boats came by our place in Beaumaris in all their glory - from our dock it made the world a better place! Please keep it going as a new tradition"



"We are at the mouth of the Indian River. The show was spectacular once in a lifetime experience. Absolutely fantastic show"



Photos by David Munro



Culinary Corner

Milford Bay Smoked Trout Linguine

Here's a Milford Bay Trout Farm take on the classic Italian linguine. It works as an appetizer for six or a main course for three... *Delizioso!*



DRESSING:

- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1½ tbsp lemon juice
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp sugar

LINGUINE:

- 1 Milford Bay smoked trout fillet (about 10 oz./ 300 g)
- 6 green onions, thinly sliced on diagonal
- 1 cup packed baby spinach leaves (50g), trimmed
- ½ cup fresh chervil sprigs, plus extra for garnish
- 14 oz (400 g) fresh linguine

For the dressing, just combine the ingredients in a small bowl and whisk well.

For the linguine, remove the skin from the smoked trout and discard it. Break the trout into large chunks and place them in a medium bowl. Add the spinach, onions, and ½ cup of chervil. Add half the dressing and toss to combine.

Cook the linguine in boiling, salted water until it's al dente. Drain it and toss the pasta with the remaining dressing. Top each plate with the smoked trout mixture and garnish the whole thing with a little extra chervil. Enjoy!

Recipe printed with permission of the Milford Bay Trout Farm. More delicious recipes can be found on their website <https://milfordbaytroutfarm.com/recipes/>

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chrisgilmourmuskoka@gmail.com
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Toronto International Boat Show Cancelled for January 2021

Just announced on September 29th, 2020 due to the ongoing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Canadian Boat Shows has made the decision to cancel the 2021 Toronto International Boat Show. It is the largest indoor Boat Show in North America.

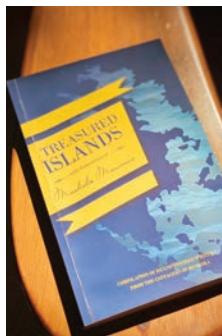
The event was scheduled for January 15 – 24 at the Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place. It has never been cancelled in its 62-year history. The next in-person show will now be January 21 – 30, 2022.

The Toronto Boat Show has been exploring on-line/virtual options, in place of the in-person 2021 Show. There will be a focus on looking to the future, expanding digital and unifying the in-person experience to deliver even more value to the Toronto Boat Show community. Details will follow in the coming months on these initiatives. www.boatingindustry.ca

Have you seen me?

Introducing the MLA/SQL No Wake Sign.

This summer the MLA was part of a pilot project put together by Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) for traffic calming on the Indian River/Mirror Lake. The MLA placed its radar unit in Foreman's Narrows to assist in this quest and ordered 50 of the above signs created for this project by SQL. We distributed these signs to our members in areas that were in most need of a NO WAKE sign for placement on PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY. The MLA expanded the area beyond Indian River/Mirror Lake for sign distribution and members have reported great success where the signs were put up on their property. We hope to continue to promote awareness with these signs and help be a traffic calming solution.



Treasured Islands

Treasured Islands is a 122-page book filled with generations of Muskoka Memories. This compilation of island inspired writings is from cottagers of Muskoka and their visitors. Included you will find 26 short stories and poems that give the reader a glimpse into decades of island life in Muskoka. From the steamship era to the current busy summers, islanders have experiences very different than those of mainland cottagers. These stories include history, mystery, comedy, and romance. The poems capture the true essence of island life.

Now available for purchase at the MLA office for just \$12.99! Pick up only at the MLA Office, please call in advance to secure your copy. 705-765-5723.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a copy by mail, please contact Kathy Varley via email at boatkathyv@gmail.com.

REMINDER- SAVE THAT ASH!

ASHMuskoka is now in the process of collecting the ash needed for the larger-scale deployment in the fall of 2020 and in 2021. By larger scale, they mean approximately 80 tonnes in total (that's 176,370 pounds!)

Please continue to Save your Ash for this project.

Pick the date that works best for you

ASH DRIVES will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rosewarne Transfer Station in Bracebridge on the below dates

- Saturday, October 24th
- Saturday, November 21st
- Saturday, December 19th

Physical distancing protocols will be in effect to help ensure the safety of the staff, volunteers and you, our valued ash contributors.

Thank you!



Cottages are special places.
Let us help you protect them.

David Browne • Cockburn Island
dbrowne@mmr.ca • 416-520-7042

Darcy Browne • Cockburn Island
darcybrowne@mmr.ca • 416-520-7042

Philip Goad • Laurie Island
pgoad@mmr.ca • 416-738-4412



RECOMMENDED BY THE MLA FOR MEMBER INSURANCE SERVICES

MLA Retiring Director



This past July the MLA held the Annual General Meeting for the first time as a virtual meeting on ZOOM. We said goodbye to only one of our Directors, as three of the existing board members who had completed a term renewed for another year. Our only retiring Director this year was Robert Ensor. Robert has been visiting Muskoka since the 1960s. In 2000, the Ensor's purchased their own cottage on Lake Muskoka's Wilson Island. Robert has been an innovative board member over the 9 years of Directorship and played a key role in the development of the MLA Insurance Program and MLA Bursary. Robert was presented with an MLA Burgee and a paddle with his name engraved on it, as a sign of thanks and respect. During Robert's time on the board he held positions as Director, Community Programs Chair, Vice President, President and Past President. Thanks for *everything!*

MLA Newly Appointed Directors

This year we had three new additions to the MLA board all appointed for a three-year term at the July 24th, AGM. We are truly excited to have Sam, Kate and Sandy onboard and part of our dynamic team.



Sam Daviau | Communication & Membership Committee and Environment Committee

Sam has been cottaging on Lake Muskoka for 10 years. Sam is a graduate of McGill University, with a double major in finance and accounting. He is the VP of Operations at Statflo, a firm specializing in Technology that assists Retailers in Customer Retention and Marketing. Sam is passionate about community advocacy and has a strong belief that the "millennial" generation needs to take on more responsibility to help build resilient local communities to create a more prosperous and meaningful future.



Kate Mostowyk | Finance and Administration Committee as Treasurer in Training

Kate has been spending time in Muskoka since 1987 when her family cottage was built on Lake Joseph. She lives in Toronto and is an investment counsellor at Burgundy Asset Management where she focuses on helping families and individuals achieve their financial goals. She graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with a degree in business and holds both her CFA and CFP designations.



Sandy McNair | Communications and Membership Committee and Government and Land Use Committee

Sandy has been a Lake Muskoka cottage owner for 40 years. Sandy, his wife Debbie and their two adult children enjoy all that Muskoka has to offer. Sandy has a business education and has founded, grown and sold a data and advisory firm focused on Canada's Investment Real Estate Industry. Sandy is also a member of the Minett Joint Policy Review Steering Committee.

Bubbler Etiquette on Your Shoreline

The MLA along with the Muskoka Ratepayers Association put together some helpful tips and reminders for those who decide to bubble.

To protect your property, please make sure you are taking all steps possible to ensure the safety of all lake users and consider the following steps we like to call "Bubbler Etiquette".

- 1) Place, secure and angle your devices with care to keep the impacted area as localized as possible.
- 2) Talk to your neighbors to avoid doubling up in an area. It is possible that one, well located bubbler will do the trick.
- 3) Equip your system with a thermostat or timer control. Running 24/7 creates oversized openings and is expensive!
- 4) Place clear signs near the bubbling area, visible from all directions noting "Danger Open Water".
- 5) Run an amber light to mark the hazard at night and during storms. Do not use a red light, as this can be mistaken for the brake lights of a snowmobile and draw people towards the risk, rather than turn them away. Using LED lights will reduce your electricity costs.
- 6) Monitor your property. If you cannot be present, have someone check regularly to ensure the system is operating the affected area, is appropriate in size, and that the warning lights and markers remain in place. Often a simple adjustment to the thermostat or bubbler depth will correct an oversized opening.
- 7) Where possible, a knowledgeable and experienced contractor should be used to configure the system. Looking in our yearbook directory under bubblers is a good place to start.

Local's Corner

MILFORD BAY TROUT FARM AND SMOKEHAUS

Products from this longstanding family business – started first in 1973 – are must-have kitchen staples for the region's residents.

Ralph and Wendy Uhde took over Milford Bay Trout Farm in 1996 from Ralph's parents, Rolf and Edith. When it opened, the farm was a public attraction where families could fish for their own trout. Ralph remembers helping small children learn how to manage the worm or trout bait on the hook and catch their first fish – memories he cherishes today.

The fishing pond is now closed, and all farmed trout comes from a variety of sources in Georgian Bay. The fish is smoked at two locations. Due to demand, a second location was opened at the Parry Sound municipal airport in June 2018, while the original in Milford Bay is still in operation.

The smoking process is 18 hours per batch from beginning to end and includes marinating with the secret family recipe, drying and smoking. Of course, the smoker is now much more modern, but the concepts and recipes remain unchanged.

Operation of the first smoker, an old, original Westinghouse refrigerator

was a hit-and-miss affair – which, while frustrating for the family, is a blessing for the rest of us: that is how the trout paté was born. The less-than-perfect in appearance smoked filets led to the innovation of the paté. Milford Bay is now famous for. The family is now on their fourth ultra-modern smoker.

Best sellers continue to be the smoked trout paté, smoked trout filet and cedar-planked trout. This year one of the new products is the smoked trout chowder which is delicious and has quickly become a bestseller.

Local support during this pandemic has been amazing, says Ralph. Customers are buying directly from the two retail locations and the farmers' markets to ensure this long-standing business actually stays in business. Check out both locations for all their products, as well as other local products they carry.

1224 Hewlitt Road, Milford Bay 705.764.1797
97 Airport Road, Parry Sound Area Municipal Airport 705.996.0010

Cathie Mostowyk



Do you know what an MLA Secondary Membership is?

Secondary Members are for those over 30 years of age who share the family cottage but reside at a separate permanent home address. This membership provides the opportunity for future generations to receive all MLA correspondence and their own family listing in the yearbook. For only \$50.00 you can sign up your children and their families to be members. We need to engage the next generation and get them involved. The greater our membership, the more we can do to protect the Muskoka we know and love. Please call the office with any questions! 705-765-5723 or sign up on our website. www.mla.on.ca



Contact Us

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