



Bubbler Etiquette

Important Safety Considerations for Bubblers

With the temperature dropping, our thoughts turn to preparing our cottages for the cold and snow to come. For some, this means closing up the cottage until the spring. For others, it is a time to prepare for life on the lake during the winter. Regardless, we all do our best to prepare our properties to withstand the toughest weather Canada can throw at us. Some property owners have opted to give their waterfront structures a helping hand, through the installation of bubblers.

What Are Bubblers?

For those who are unfamiliar, ‘bubblers’ are a type of de-icing system, intended to prevent the build-up of ice at or around waterfront structures like docks and boathouses. There are several different types of systems, but generally these devices use air or propellers to create zones of agitated and warmer water to prevent ice from forming. Protecting our cottage properties is understandable and an increasing number of cottagers in Ontario are turning to these devices as part of their winter preparation.

However, if you are a regular bubbler user, or if you are considering installing one at your property, it is important to plan carefully and be sure that you are not contributing to a significant hazard on the lake.

Creating a Hole in the Water

Bubblers are often turned on and left largely unattended by property owners throughout the winter. Without careful planning, management and consideration of the nature of your waterfront area, your bubbler can de-ice a significantly larger portion of the water than is necessary to protect your property. This is especially true in shallow or sheltered areas, or when several bubblers are active near one-another, with multiple property owners inadvertently creating a massive hole in the ice, hundreds of feet in size. These holes in the ice can pose a serious safety risk to winter users of our lakes, especially at night or during storms with poor visibility.

Legal Implications

Section 263 (1) 263 (3) of the Criminal Code of Canada is very clear that those who make or cause to be made an opening in ice are under a legal duty to guard the opening in a manner adequate to prevent persons from falling in by accident, and adequate to warn them that the opening exists. If you fail to perform these duties, the Code states that you may be found guilty of serious offences, up to and including manslaughter.

Risk Management Considerations

If you chose to operate a bubbler to protect your property, please make sure you are taking all steps possible to ensure the safety of all lake users and consider taking these risk management steps:

- 1) Place 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 bubbler will do the trick
- 3) Equip your system with a thermostat or timer control. Running 24/7 creates oversized openings.
- 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.
- 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.
- 7) Where possible, a knowledgeable and experienced contractor should be used to configure the system.

Remember, summer or winter, safety on the water is a top priority!

Presented on behalf of the Muskoka Ratepayers’ Association and Muskoka Lakes Association

Jim Boyd
 Director, Muskoka Ratepayers’ Association



Lawton Osler
 President, Muskoka Lakes Association



In this Issue...

President’s Message.....	2	Royal Muskoka Resort History Book.....	6
MLA on Boating	3	Retiring Directors	7
Precautions for Fall Boating	4	What Your MLA Board Has Been Up To	7
Closing up the Cottage	4	Local’s Corner - Brown’s Appliances Ltd.	8
Protect Yourself.....	5		



President's MESSAGE



Members Update

I just returned from a three day canoe trip with the above three companions who are stalwart MLA members and water samplers. The quietness of the lake we are were on reminded me of the importance of the boating

article in this *ShoreLines* edition. In it, I touch on the new decibel education initiative. There is also a brief yet vital discussion re night boating safety.

I hoped being off the grid would clear my mind for this important communication to the MLA Membership. However, on my return that did not last long when I opened my in box! First and foremost, the JW Marriott sewage concern. By the time you read this the final timeline given by the Provincial Order re the JW Marriott sewage spill would have been reached. That requirement was that by Sept 30, 2019 the retained qualified person ordered to be hired in August was to have prepared and submitted the Marriott's report to the Ministry. I can confirm that at the District council meeting September 16th, Mayor Phil Harding gave a short update on last month's Public Works committee meeting. He stated that "The Marriott is now following all provincial protocols and that no sewage waste is affecting Lake Rosseau." John Klinck, Chair of the District also says "the Marriott is fully in compliant with the MOE orders." He assured Sandy Tozer- Spence; the MLA's Public Relations Manager that the District has let the Ministry know that they consider this of high importance and as such, the District is now being copied on all correspondence to do with the JW Marriott. Thanks to Sandy Tozer-Spence for this report. Never the less we must continue to be awake at our post. What does this mean? This means we must have a follow up meeting with Mayor Phil Harding and a sit down with District Chair John Klinck. I also need to persevere with setting up a meeting with the Marriott's most senior representatives, as I promised in August. Our Environment committee (responsible for the water sampling MLA does around the Lakes) is 'on the job'.

In case you have not heard, MLA's Environmental Chair, Chris Cragg is one of nine members recently appointed to the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group. This group, is expected to provide advice and recommendations to

the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks on priority projects to protect the watershed and promote economic growth in the region. The Province has earmarked a \$5 million grant plus up to another \$5 million in donation matching funds to support this work. This is good news for the Water Level Task Force and the MLA.

In September we confirmed a task force to sit on a strategic plan session to discuss amongst other things, growing membership with new property owners.

As I mentioned, when I started in this position, one of my goals was to achieve partnerships with other Muskoka organizations. That program is continuing to be successful as this summer we started exploratory meetings with the Muskoka Ratepayers' Association (MRA).

Finally, I encourage you to let me know personally if you have any concerns or initiatives the MLA should be aware of. My personal email address is lawton.osler@oslerhr.ca. I will leave you with this thought. We cannot be all things to all people, but we certainly need to know what our members want.

Lawton Osler - President

New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA! From June 19, 2019 to September 17, 2019

David ARMSTRONG

Yousry BISSADA

Elizabeth & Greg BOEHMER

Heather BURNS

Kathleen GURBIN

Mathew HERRMANN

Wendy KEENLEYSIDE

Dave & Dana LOUGHEED

Barb MASON

Barry & Judy MCLEAN

G. Scott PATERSON

Jim SCHOEN

Clarke SMITH

Peter STRACHAN

Elliott & Anita WEIDMAN

Charles ZIMMERMAN

MLA VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU!

We couldn't do it without you!

Another summer has come and gone. We wanted to take this moment to thank ALL of our volunteers for giving us their most valuable asset, time! We had a very successful, fun filled summer and we can't thank each and everyone of you enough. Our programs simply would not exist without you.

A special shout out to our Water Quality volunteers. Thanks to you we have been able to continue the most comprehensive water monitoring program of any lake association in Canada for the past 18 years!

Your tireless efforts, multiple weekend tests and passion for our lakes is the only way we are able to operate this program. We thank you for the years you have dedicated to testing with us.



MLA on Boating



We have had a very busy, and in some cases noisy boating season this year.

As we are aware there was a fatal boating collision on Lake Joseph in August. As of writing, the OPP are conducting an exhaustive investigation and it is inappropriate to comment on it at this time. However, I will remind everybody to check that your navigation lights are working “bow and stern” and when on the water make sure they are on! It goes without saying there is no tolerance on alcohol, at any time. Remember the 360 degree rule. Be aware of your surroundings.

The topic of extremely noisy boats was brought to my attention many times this summer. Due to our members increasing concern of loud boats on the lakes; Safe Quiet Lakes, The Friends of Muskoka and The MLA are exploring a decibel education program to look into the extreme boat noise phenomenon.

The Muskoka Lakes Association advocates for safe and respectful boating on all Muskoka waterways.

- We encourage you to get out on the water and enjoy the Muskoka Lakes in a safe, fun and respectful manner, keeping in mind that our lakes are a shared space.

- Please obey the 9km speed signs and follow the 9km speed limit when travelling within 30 meters of shore and other boats. Watch your wake to help protect our shorelines.

- Boats in Muskoka should have a muffler designed to eliminate excessive or unusual noise. Boats with through-hull exhaust and little or no muffling are a deep concern for cottagers and other users of the Muskoka waterways.

- Boats with no muffler should direct exhaust through the propeller hub or underwater, unless the boat is more than five miles from shore.

- Outboards and inboard outboard motors should direct exhaust through the propeller hub or below the cavitation plate.

- We encourage, when safe to do so and if possible, to have open and positive communication with your neighbours to discuss any concerns you might have. By doing this, a compromise or resolution could be reached to benefit all.

- When you spot inappropriate behaviour, speed or noise on the Lakes that is not an emergency, please call the OPP non-emergency line 1-888-310-1122 to report it. They want to hear from you, and the more information provided such as the boat registration number, colour, make, model, time of day, location, description of driver and frequency, the more likely they will be able to address the issue. When getting this information for the OPP please do not go on private property! If you witness or are involved in an emergency then please call 911.

- We encourage you to review the Boater’s Code below that was originally designed by the MLA but updated substantially by Safe Quiet Lakes.

BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.

MLATM
Muskoka Lakes Association
Preserving Muskoka for Future Generations



PRECAUTIONS for Fall Boating

Here are some of our recommendations to improve your fall boating. With warm lake water temperatures and cool overnight and early morning air temperatures, fog WILL develop.

Firstly, fog can be extremely dense and nearly impossible to navigate in. Secondly, the best plan is to defer your boating and stay out of it. But if it is urgent that you must go out:

- Know the waterways that you plan to or must travel on and choose a safe route
- Let someone know that you are planning to go out on the water, where you are going and when you expect to be back. When your trip is over, let them know.
- Everyone on board must be wearing a lifejacket or PFD.
- Make sure you have all the required safety equipment on board.
- Turn on your navigation lights to be more visible.
- Do not go faster than you can see ahead to stop. Reduce speed to a walking pace. Stopping before bumping into something that appears out of the fog is less damaging than crashing into it.
- If possible, bring a spotter/listener with you. Stop occasionally



and listen carefully for other boat motors nearby.

- Blast your horn or blow your safety whistle for 4 to 6 seconds every minute to give warning to any other boats in the foggy area.

- It is difficult to steer a straight line without clear visibility ahead. Your spotter (yourself if alone) must continually take a look backwards at your wake to see that you have not made an unexpected turn or are not making an unintended slow curve.

- Consider using a smart phone with a GPS navigation app (only with marine charts because road maps do not show accurate shorelines, islands, hazards or

navigation aids on the water). Know exactly how it works to show you where you are on the screen chart. Most GPS units are only accurate to within 10 m. *and lastly . . .*

- **If you really don't need to go out in the fog, don't go!** The sun will burn off the fog, it's just a matter of time.

Pour another coffee and head to your favourite Muskoka chair to wait it out. Could be time well wasted.

John Bosomworth

Closing Up the Cottage? A few Best Practices for your Boathouse

1. Remove all non critical items from your boathouse that can potentially pollute like paint cans, gas cans etc.
2. Elevate and secure all remaining items to the extent possible
3. Unplug all non critical 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 planter boxes, deck chairs and lights
9. Flip up or remove dock ladders



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

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Philip Goad • Laurie Island
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RECOMMENDED BY THE MLA FOR MEMBER INSURANCE SERVICES

Protect Yourself

Dear Fellow Cottagers,

As the weather outside slowly changes and we hang on to the last little bit of summer, it is important to protect your cottage against the perils that our Canadian winters bestow upon us.

Many of us are also seeing cottage insurance premiums increase in cost and go through underwriting changes that seem unfair or costly.

Last year's flooding and ice floes on some parts of the lake created a lot of damage and unfortunately flood insurance for cottages and boat houses is generally not available.

At the same time as we experienced major flooding in the Muskoka region, we are seeing what we call in the insurance industry a "hardening market" across most lines of business. We believe that rates are currently increasing by 3% to 4% before inflation. This has come about by increased losses across Canada.

• Your home or cottage is one of the most valuable financial assets and safeguarding it with the most appropriate insurance protection cannot be over stated.

It is important that customers and brokers do their best to keep themselves protected at reasonable premiums while not sacrificing coverage.

Here are a few ways to combat the increasing premiums

- Increase deductibles to \$10,000 or \$25,000
- Reduce contents limits where current limits are excessive
- Hire a property management service to check on your property during the offseason

- Install a monitored burglar, fire and low temperature alarm system
- Install a permanent standby generator

An informed cottage owner is an empowered cottage owner!

- Is your property insured to full replacement cost?
- Confirm your policy qualifies for Guaranteed Replacement Cost Coverage?

- If you are renovating call your insurance broker to confirm
- Do you know if your insurance policy permits renting?

At Martin Merry & Reid Ltd we work with cottage owners to determine the best course of action to keep your cottage and summer toys protected but also work with you during this challenging insurance pricing landscape.

If you would like assistance or have any questions about your coverage, please contact Philip Goad at 416-738-4412 or David Browne at 416-520-7042 or by email pgoad@mmr.ca or dbrowne@mmr.ca

Nominate a Candidate today!



The Search is underway for the 2019 Safe Quiet Lakes – "Share the Lakes" Award

This award recognizes an individual or organization who's 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.

Who might be eligible for this Award?

- Policy Influencers who through activism have created change in government regulations and policies that support safe, quiet and respectful boating practices.
- Innovators who have created devices or applications that reduce boat noise and/or protect shorelines (eg: devices that makes mufflers quieter, speed indicators on the river to protect shorelines, etc.)
- Educators/Communicators who create sustainable programs to alter/influence behaviour consistent with safe, quiet and respectful boating practices.
- Manufacturers or Marinas or other Retailers who products or services have been tailored to encourage responsible boating practices.

Nomination forms can be found online at www.safequiet.ca

Deadline for nominations: December 31, 2019

For more information email info@safequiet.ca

Nominate an Outstanding Supporter or Nominate Yourself!!!

Making the Muskoka Lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource.



Find out more about safe boating at safequiet.ca

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 younger generation and get them involved. The greater our membership, the more we can do to protect the Muskoka we know and love. Watch for our 2019 MLA Secondary Membership Stocking Stuffer, Coming Soon!

MUSKOKA Lakes Association August 31 - October 15
7th Annual Food Drive

In support of the Gravenhurst Salvation Army

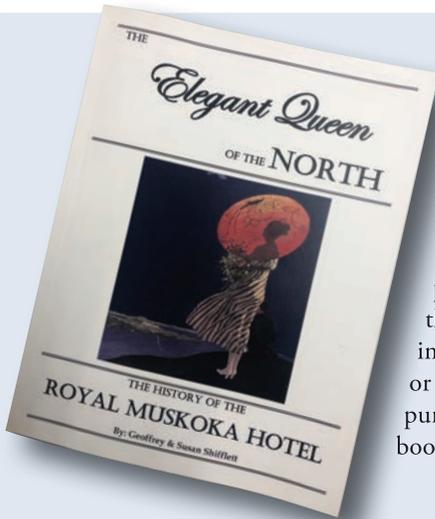


THE SALVATION ARMY

Food Drive!

Don't forget to visit one of our below Food Drive locations!

- Oliver's Coffee - Bracebridge
- Oliver's Coffee - Gravenhurst
- Oliver's Coffee - Port Carling
- Oliver's Coffee - Bala
- Walkers Point Marina
- Mortimers Marina
- Gordon Bay Marina
- Glen Orchard General Store
- Silver Stream Farms
- The Muskoka Station Store— (Cash donation box)
- Home Hardware—Port Carling



Royal Muskoka Resort History... a Must Read!

If you have an ounce of curiosity with regards to Muskoka's rich history, this newly supplemented and re-released book is a must read. Showcasing Muskoka's most elegant resort, the 86 page book called "The Elegant Queen of the North. The History of the Royal Muskoka Hotel" gives us a glimpse into another era of life in Muskoka. Copies are available through Bob Nash at 416 809 3907 or bobnash1@hotmail.com. A limited supply will also be available for purchase at the MLA Office. Cost of the book is \$40.00 per copy. This book would make a great holiday gift for the true Muskoka enthusiast.

Your contribution matters. Help to preserve the Muskoka you cherish for future generations. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership at www.mla.on.ca or by calling our office at 705-765-5723.



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MLA 2019 Retiring Directors

This past July the MLA had the Annual General Meeting aboard the Wenonah II, where we said goodbye to six of our Board of Directors. Each and every one of them dedicated their time to support the committees they served and all shared a true passion for Muskoka. Only three of the Directors were there in person to accept

their framed burgee, a symbol of appreciation. Two of the six Directors received an extra special gift in addition to their burgee. An engraved paddle was given to Anne McCauley and Peter Hand as they both had many years of Directorship on the MLA board and executive committee that we wanted to recognize.



Anne McCauley
2006-2019

Chair Political & Land Use (2010-2018)
Government & Land Use
Environment



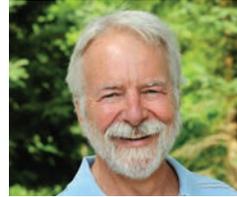
Peter Hand
2014-2019

Community Programs
Government & Land Use
Secretary



Rob Randall
2016-2019

Community Programs
Government & Land Use
Communications & Membership



Jim Davis
2016-2018

Government & Land Use
Communications & Membership



Susan Carson
2016-2018

Community Programs
Communications & Membership



Ruth Marland
2017-2019

Government & Land Use
Environment

What your MLA Board has been up to on your behalf

COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP | Chair: Laurie Munro

- Production of 2019 Member Yearbook
- Development of a New Member Web Directory
- *NewsBites* - MLA's E-Newsletter
- *ShoreLines* - MLA's Quarterly Newsletter
- Support of Other Committees Communications Needs
- Retirement of MLA's Advantage Card

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS | Chair: Penny Middleton

- 2019 MLA Mixed Bonspiel at the South Muskoka Curling & Golf Club
- Annual Seedling Day
- The MLA Bursary
- Installation of MLA Radar Data Sign at Ames Narrows
- Summer Seminar Series; Discussion with OPP and Safe Quiet Lakes
- 126th Annual Aquatic Regatta at the Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club
- Annual General Meeting on the Muskoka Steamship Wenonah II
- Gravenhurst Antique Boat Show
- MLA End of Summer Early Fall Food Drive
- 2019 Member Survey CP Committee looking for new initiative right from the members.

ENVIRONMENT | Chair: Chris Cragg

- Annual water quality report on Muskoka Lakes plus eleven affiliated lakes. Over 190 sites tested for Clarity, E. Coli and Total Phosphorous. Water quality overall is good to excellent. Only nine sites had moderately elevated results worthy of enhanced scrutiny in 2019.
- Individual area results now searchable on the MLA web site
- MLA participating in Muskoka Watershed Council's algae pilot test program initiated May 2019.
- MLA participating in District Municipality of Muskoka Working Group to reduce salt input to Muskoka Lakes.
- Analysis of long term trends performed on MLA WQ data going back to 2002

WATER LEVEL TASK FORCE | Chair: Lawton Osler

- Weekly Flood Watch newsletters during lead up to Spring Freshet

- Several meetings with Mayor of Township of Muskoka Lakes
- Letters to various Provincial Ministers
- Application for membership on the \$5 million Muskoka Watershed Committee

GOVERNMENT & LAND USE | Chair: Deborah Martin-Downs,
Vice Chair: Stephen Sims

- Minnett Joint Policy Steering Committee – we are contributing the review of the policy and making recommendations to the Township and District.
- Moody Bay Gravenhurst Subdivision – objected to approval of a subdivision that did not meet setbacks and Official Plan policies
- Leonard Lake (Noonan McIntosh) subdivision; prepared submission objecting to approval until better understanding of water quality impacts Villas, Touchstone and Legacy Hearings: supporting the hearing participation by
- Mary Jane Lake Subdivision – objected to the approval of the subdivision and rezoning pending better understanding of the lake environment and avoidance of and impacts on wetlands
- Continued to follow the District of Muskoka Official Plan policies
- Regional Governance Review – Recommended that the two-tier government be retained, to ensure effective environmental management and retain the local voice for MLA members
- Municipal Elections with the Political Action Team (PAT) – assessed candidates for their alignment with MLA values
- Bill 66 comments to the province on the proposed changes to the planning act and other Clean Water Act
- Budgets – reviewed TML and Gravenhurst budgets and provided comments about the level of taxation
- Muskoka Royale College in Bracebridge Zoning By-Law Amendment – provided a letter of objection to the Zoning By-Law Amendment pending greater detail on the development proposal
- Bala Bay Inn Staff Housing for the JW Marriot Zoning By-Law Amendment – objected to the installation of trailers to house staff without details of the proposal and servicing
- Proctor's Point, Lake Joseph, – provided letter of objection to Zoning By-Law amendment for a second storey on a boathouse in a narrow waterbody



Local's Corner

Brown's Appliances Ltd.

Like many of the grand homes on our lakes, Brown's Appliances has been owned and operated by multiple generations of one family. Clive Brown started the business with a partner in 1957 and called it Clive Brown & Sons. They started by selling plumbing and electrical materials and serviced families in the Muskoka Lakes as a partnership until Clive assumed sole ownership with sons Bob, Ross and Tom. In 1973 the youngest sister in the family, Peggy, moved to Port Carling from Toronto with her husband Bill Grigg and after assuming leadership of the company they moved to the sale of appliances and changed the name to the one we know today.

In 2013, Jennifer Veitch and her brother David Grigg bought the business and today employ seven full time staff. For those keeping track, Jennifer and David are the third generation of Brown's owners! They cover a wide ranging territory from North Bay to Thornbury and of course Muskoka.

Brown's believes in a full service philosophy which includes the pick-up of old appliances, delivery to island locations, and certified installation teams



that provide professional installations.

Because Brown's is independent, they choose the products they know can be serviced in the Muskoka area. They will act as the liaison between their customers and the service provider, whether or not the appliance is under warranty.

Brown's is very involved in local charities, and supports the Port Carling Legion, the figure skating club, minor hockey, school fundraisers, South Muskoka Hospital and more.

Loyal customers love dealing with Brown's because staff are knowledgeable, prices are competitive and delivery schedules can be flexible.

The Brown's motto of "Serving Muskoka and Beyond" has emblazoned the store signage since 1973 and the family and their business intend to live by that for many years to come.

Cathie Mostowyk



Contact Us

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