



VOTE TO KEEP MUSKOKA, MUSKOKA. RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE. PASS IT ON...

TELEPHONE AND ONLINE VOTING OCTOBER 17 - 24

Why Do Municipal Elections Matter?

Many property owners and renters don't bother voting in municipal elections, yet decisions made by your local municipal council touch your lives in many important ways and can have lasting implications.

Do you care about the quality of the lake water?

Do you care about the amount of blasting and tree cutting along the waterfront?

Do you care about disruption from short term cottage rentals?

Do you care about your municipal tax bill?

Do you care about garbage pick-up and road maintenance?

Do you care about building and land development?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then be sure to vote in Ontario's municipal election on October 24th.

Who can vote in Muskoka? Likely you can!

Few of us realize that we can vote in more than one municipality in Ontario. In fact, property owners and their spouses can both vote in every municipality where they have property. So you and your spouse can both vote at your home and also at your cottage if:

- you are a Canadian citizen, and 18+ years old; and
- you are registered to vote.

Register on the voters' list today at VoterLookUp.ca or call MPAC at 1-866-296-6722

Vote October 17 - 24 Registered voters receive (at your permanent address) voting instructions and PIN numbers in September. Voting will only be by telephone or online.

Tenants (renters) and their spouses are also allowed to vote. So long as you are a tenant in the municipality on voting day (October 24) you are entitled to vote.

Why is this year's election so important?

With the tremendous amount of development occurring in Muskoka, it's more important than ever to vote for councillors who will prioritise responsible development, environmental protection and strong fiscal management – to Respect, Preserve and Protect Muskoka.

- No more excessive clearcutting and blasting
- No more residential subdivisions on our shorelines – 27 km of Muskoka shoreline are at risk without strong resort development policies
- Protect water quality and mitigating flooding
- Effective by-law enforcement
- Responsible and transparent budgets and taxation
- Address irresponsible short term rentals
- Promote a year-round economy, with high-speed internet and affordable housing
- No conflicts of interest

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President's MESSAGE



Well, this is it. My last president's message. My term ends at our AGM on July 20th. Officially the strangest two year-term being entirely conducted under COVID. I am very proud of how we adapted to this huge disruption in our business and activities and all that we accomplished virtually. In fact, the switch to zoom meetings meant more directors were able to attend, especially those who live far away or the snowbirds among us. And we saved some carbon along the way. That is a COVID trend that will continue. Some of our board members met each other in person for the first time at the end of June after almost 2 years of board and committee meetings!

Susan Eplett, our Vice President and Chair of Government and Land Use Committee will step into my role and Ken Pearce, our Secretary, into the VP role. Our thanks go out to Lawton Osler whose term as Past President is ending. Everyone brings their strengths to their role, and we have been grateful for his human resources skills as we have sourced board nominees and office staff. Penny Middleton, our Chair of Community Programs will also be completing her term and we still are not sure how we can replace the energy she brought to that role. We are very fortunate to have such a capable team to carry on the work the MLA has been doing for the past 128 years. If you have thought about giving some of your valuable time back to Muskoka, we would love to talk with you.

There is much work to do in Muskoka from new water quality initiatives to reviewing and commenting on development applications and official plans to improving our website and member services. Our in-person community events have resumed including attending farmer's markets, the MLA Regattas and Antique Boat show. We look forward to seeing you in person and to celebrate some of our Muskoka Lakes culture.

Our AGM remains virtual making it easy to attend. It is a vital opportunity to hear an update from each of our committee Chairs on what our board members and volunteers spend their time on. Plus, you can vote for our new and returning directors, say thank you to those retiring from the board and have the opportunity to ask questions of the board. Hope you will take 90 minutes to join us on July 20th at 5 pm.

I have been proud to serve as President of the MLA. Our lakes are loved and our association respected by many throughout Ontario. The torch may be passed but the race is still on. I am in for the long run.



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New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA! From May 3 to July 12, 2022

Alexandra & Danny
BRACKETT

Chris BULLEN

John CROWLEY

Ross DAVIES

Michael J ELDER

Cindy FORBES

Sandra and Stuart GUNN

Chris INNISS

Neysa INNISS

Andrzej KEPINSKI

Kelly MERRITT

Will MILLER

Susan NICHOLAS

Ron SCLATER

John & Mary WHISH

**Look for us at farmers
markets, bring a friend with
you to join the MLA.**



VOTE TO KEEP MUSKOKA, MUSKOKA. RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE. PASS IT ON... *continued from page 1*

The MLA and Friends of Muskoka will be working together to evaluate candidates for council in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Township of Muskoka Lakes and Seguin Township. We will interview all interested candidates and jointly identify those who are aligned with the values of our combined membership base of over 8,000 voters.

Thinking about Running for Council? Let's talk!

The best way to ensure the voice of waterfront property owners is heard is through strong representation at council tables. We need you!

Mayor and councillor positions are for a 4-year term. Prospective councillors need to reside, part-time or full-time, in the municipality they plan to represent. Both are paid positions, but there is a significant element of public service in these roles.

Candidates must be:

- a resident or non-resident owner or tenant of land in the municipality, or the spouse of such non-resident owner or tenant; seasonal residents are eligible;
- a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age; and
- not legally prohibited from voting, and not disqualified by any legislation from holding municipal office.

To run in the election, you need to file your nomination papers (with 25 signatures) with your municipal Clerk and pay a fee -- \$100 for town/township or district councillor, and \$200 for mayor.

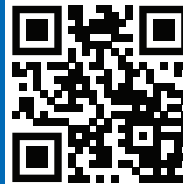
Nominations will be accepted by the Clerk from May 2nd to August 19th at 2pm.

For more information visit Ontario Municipal Elections or your local municipality's election website.

Let's talk if you are considering running for office in Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Township of Muskoka Lakes or Seguin, or you know someone we should be talking to. Please email Deborah Martin-Downs at president@mla.on.ca and let's begin the conversation.

Sign up at Vote4Muskoka.ca to receive information about the election, voting and candidates.

DETAILS HERE



ON OCTOBER 24TH
WE CAN HELP KEEP
MUSKOKA, MUSKOKA.

JOIN THE PARTY!

REFER A FRIEND AND BECOME AN MLA AMBASSADOR

Recruit 10 or more new MLA Members to help us preserve the Muskoka & Seguin we all love. Then be invited to attend the exclusive Ambassador's Reception to celebrate and recognize our highest achieving members.

DETAILS, TOOLS & SIGN UP

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



BECOMING ENERGY INDEPENDENT

The past few years have been challenging on all of us to say the least. More than ever our desire and appreciation for our sacred places away from the bustling cities and busy lives, have become more paramount after so many lockdowns, travel restrictions, and fundamental changes to our everyday life. Now we appreciate the access to beautiful cottage locations surrounded by water & nature more than we ever did before. However, there are emerging changes affecting the costs of operating a cottage in Ontario.

The increasing cost of energy is driving these costs, and we do not foresee them going down anytime soon. As most of our cottages and homes often require both electricity and propane, these rising prices will be a significant factor to the overall yearly operating costs.

There are several ways we can battle these rising costs, while bring about a more sustainable future. The Net Metering Program provides even more benefits to home and cottage owners without the need for battery back-up system. With this program you will utilize the solar energy being produced to meet the power the loads in your home or cottage requires. Additionally any excess energy being created will be pushed back to the grid, creating kWhr credits on your hydro account to offset future energy consumption.

Systems that include battery back-up solutions are an excellent opportunity to move away from costly propane/diesel generators that are loud, create harmful Co2 emissions, and require continued additional supply and delivery expense. Removing the continued need for propane/diesel supply can save you a lot of capital over the lifespan of these battery back-up systems.

Furthermore, a common assumption regarding battery technology is that there must be some new and improved battery option becoming available. This is not the case, and the only likely change in the battery options available, is a slight increase in capacity every 5 years or so. Most innovations in battery technology, will see a time



lag of 10 years or more before that innovation comes to market. Every year you delay incorporating sustainable energy storage solutions is a year of opportunity missed. Don't fall into that train of thought.

Working with a professional, can help to determine exact load calculations, and create a custom system that works for your unique energy needs. A sustainable energy solution for every cottage or home is waiting for you to discover. Solar PV professional is one such company who is one of our listed yearbook advertisers.

Scott Miffin, Solar PV

Join Us For
the MLA AGM

July 20, 2022
@ 5:00pm
Via Zoom


Muskoka Lakes Association
FOR ALL GENERATIONS



THE MLA RADAR DEVICE



One of The MLA's best kept secrets, our Radar Devices. If your regular boat trips are through Mirror Lake or The Little Joe River, you will already know it!

In 2015 John Bowlby, a Board Member, procured a grant from Transport Canada allowing MLA to purchase a solar powered Radar Device. At the time it was a monstrous initiative in the Muskoka Lakes. I remember seeing the device at Bob Ensor's (former CP Chair) house installing a security chain around it that would have been suitable for the Queen Mary!

This first device, MLA Radar#1 would tell the boater how fast they are going and tell them if they were going faster than 9 km/hr. It was visual for boaters and recorded the data of all the passing boats. Downloading the data after the first year was a challenge, but in the end we realized the investment had paid off.

To this day I remember John Bowlby moving MLA Radar#1, attached to a 6 by 6 post at least 8 feet long, lugging it in and out of his van all by himself.

It took over a year to decide on a permanent spot for Radar#1. John worked with Fred Woods on locating it at the Ames narrows. Then in 2020, Safe Quiet Lakes Mirror Lake Traffic Calming initiative, invited the MLA to use their Radar Device on Mirror Lake. Penny Middleton from our board was very excited to participate and support the initiative. Through the collective efforts of Colleen of SQL and Ray Dawson former OPP and a resident of Indian river, they obtained permission to have the device erected in the perfect place. I have fond memories, spring of 2020, Penny, Coleen, Ray, Dave Moffatt (OPP) and myself put MLA Radar#1 on the west side of Indian river north of Mirror Lake.

In this location Radar#1 only recorded for the boats only on the west side. The breadth of water across the river and down to Mirror Lake exceeded the range of MLA Radar. With this unforeseen development, the Community Programs Committee including Bob Ensor, John Bowlby and Penny purchased a device MLA Radar#2, allowing for reading across

the entire area. This model was installed spring 2021. At the same time MLA Radar#1 was moved back to Ames Narrows where it is a perfect fit for its range.

Penny Middleton has been driving the Radar project the last few years. She and Larry Johns, former Board member, install the Lake Joe device and Colleen, Ray Dawson and Ken Pearce look after the Indian River/ Mirror Lake unit.

These MLA Radar units have accomplished the following;

- Our radar devices slow boat traffic on The Joe River at Ames Narrows and Indian River by Mirror Lake. This has been verified by the residents each year when the units are installed. The overriding consensus is that there has been a noticeable improvement in boat behavior.
- Lending our Radar device to SQL for their Wakes and Speed initiative, has strengthened our partnership.
- Sharing the download of data (no pictures or names) with Dave Moffat, OPP, allows better enforcement on our lakes and rivers
- The Radar speed detectors have tangible evidence that support the goals of our Safe Boating Programs.

Lawton Osler



2022 BURSARY WINNER



The Muskoka Lakes Association is proud to have awarded the 2022 Bursary to Chrystal Schnur. Chrystal is a resident of Parry Sound, graduating from Grade 12, Parry Sound High school, with an 80% average. Top marks being achieved in Communications Technology: TV, video, and movie production.

Chrystal has been accepted to Durham College's Film Production program. This program unifies her future education and her passion for giving a voice to important issues, allowing education of pivotal topics such as protecting our environment, and supporting the conquering of personal adversity. Chrystal knows that higher education paves the way for life-long learning and success.

Success in her mind will "show people the truth, and not to fabricate any situation. She is inspired to help others who struggle" Chrystal herself

has courageously dealt with personal adversity with a commendable outlook and envisions imparting that to others.

Chrystal's extracurricular activities include participation in Arts Festivals and school plays. This includes her volunteer hours assisting the Festival of Sound, music cruise and Earth Day! Chrystal's creative ideas have contributed to promoting Parry Sound Biosphere. She knows implicitly the delicate balance of our environment and vows to continue to fight for water and land health through higher education.

Consideration of the Bursary winner included reference letters, that contained extensive support to Chrystal's strong character and integrity. One school counselor was brought to tears with the knowledge Chrystal had won the Bursary, allowing her to pursue post graduate studies. The MLA Bursary will significantly support her attending college this fall in their opinion.

The MLA is proud to support Chrystal's future giving voice to her perspective through the camera. Chrystal is creative, talented with a face of strength and determination. The MLA is proud to award her this Bursary and wish her well in the future that she envisions.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!
The Muskoka Lakes Association.

See you at the
Antique Boat Show

August 13, 2022
Port Carling locks &
James Bartleman
Island
10am-4pm



Join us for the
Aquatic Regatta

July 30, 2022
Registration opens
@ 8:00am



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SEEDLING DAY

Thank you to all of the volunteers and vendors who made 2022 Seedling Day a success. It was a busy day with 80 members dropping in to pick up 300 seedlings.



Boating is a popular pastime in Ontario, providing a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and spend time with friends and family. Enjoying our lakes and rivers is a lot of fun but also requires every boater to be safe and responsible. For everyone's sake, Be #WakeAware. www.bewakeaware.com



mla
Muskoka Lakes Association
FOR ALL GENERATIONS

2022 PHOTO CONTEST

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

- Muskoka Wildlife**
Capture unique pictures of Muskoka's beautiful wildlife
- Fun & Games With The Next Generation**
What games do you play with the kids at the cottage?
- Naturally Beautiful Shorelines**
Show us the beauty of your natural shorelines
- Yearbook Cover**
Have your photo featured on the yearbook cover!

High resolution, portrait orientation photos only please!

Sponsored by **Aben**
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www.abengraphics.com

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

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Local's Corner

Wendy Robertson – Artist



We recently had an opportunity to sit down with Wendy to discuss the vivid paintings she paints of Muskoka.

A lifetime of camping, hiking and cottaging has inspired her paintings. Thick paint applied with a palette knife brings authenticity and realism to her paintings. Various textures, strokes, colours and values are layered to achieve a stunning result.



Wendy started to paint in high school, but put it away when real life and real jobs interfered. Fast forward 25 years, and she decided to go back to art school at OCAD as well as evening courses at the AGO. She changed her style from watercolours to oils, and has been painting with oils ever since.

One day in 2018, Wendy gathered her courage and walked into the Red Canoe Gallery in Port Carling, armed with a portfolio of her work. Heart in mouth, she approached the owner who graciously said she'd love to look at her art. A couple of months later, there were eight of Wendy's paintings on the wall. She continues to work with Red Canoe, although presently they have sold all of her work. Hopefully Wendy will be able to supply them with new art later this year.



Since then she has been showcasing her work in various art exhibitions, as well as a television show called Landscape Artist of the Year Canada.

Wendy's family spends as much time as possible at their cottage on Lake Rosseau, and have been members of the MLA for the past 45 years. If you'd like to see her art, you can go to her website at www.wendyrobertsonart.com

Cathie Mostowyk



Contact Us

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