



WEAR GREEN TO BE SEEN!

As I was swimming, earlier this year, my brother-in-law commented that my fluorescent green Swim Buddy wasn't visible enough to draw attention to me. He recalled a couple of too-close-for-comfort run-ins with boats as he swam in Muskoka a few years ago, albeit without a swim buddy. That may be more a comment on the skills of some boaters, but it did get me thinking: what is the best way to be seen on our lakes as we swim? So off I went in search of data to help inform my colour choices.

Google offered a study by Mustang Survival, which designs and manufactures a wide range of personal flotation gear and related products for consumer/sport, industrial and military applications.

Mustang undertook on-water testing of four fabric colours typically used in survival gear – red, yellow, orange and fluorescent green. The results showed that for both approaching and leaving a target in low or high intensity light, green was the most conspicuous colour overall (by a five-fold margin over red), followed by fluorescent orange. Red was the least conspicuous colour in on-water testing. They didn't test fluorescent pink, which I have seen be effective, but I would think its visibility was comparable to the green. Want to read more? Check out these links:

<https://mustangsurvival.com/blogs/resources/on-water-visibility> <https://www.newwaveswimbuoy.com/blogs/news/brightest-on-water>

Now I'm really concerned about my choices for life jackets – royal blue with yellow interiors and red! I guess it's time to re-equip the boat and upgrade the grandchildren.



That got me thinking about the most visible colours for the grandkids' bathing suits, as they gain more independence from their life jackets and swim aids.

ALIVE Solutions Inc. (which provides public water safety education and resources for the professional aquatics operator community), tested a variety of coloured suits in pools and 45 cm of lake water. That research found that the open water would be cloudier than a pool, so certain colours, like red and pink, would not be the most visible. Overall, ALIVE suggested colours similar to the Mustang Survival study, above, with bright/fluorescent green and orange showing well. Parents

continued on page 3

In this Issue...

President's Message.....	2	Member Info Online.....	6
Wear Green To Be Seen <i>continued</i>	3	Turtles All The Way Down.....	7
2023 MLA Bursary Recipient	4	Local's Corner.....	8
Avoid Boating Tragedy.....	5		



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Isn't it wonderful to be spending summer in one of the most beautiful places in the world? And for some of us, the most beautiful, most treasured place in the world.

As one of our directors said after his first weekend back in Muskoka, it's pure pleasure being out on the cottage deck catching up with neighbours, watching the water sparkle in the sun.

It reminds him why his work with the MLA is so important.

It's remarkable to see the enthusiasm of people who volunteer their time and expertise so generously to help the MLA protect Muskoka's beauty, and to support the many ways we build the wider community. This was driven home to me when a recent call for board volunteers drew more great candidates than we had openings. Fortunately, we have been able to engage all the interested candidates in other high-priority areas.

It's now show-time for the many MLA events our volunteers and office staff have put such care into planning, with something for everyone, including: a fun family day at the aquatic or sailing regatta, visiting the MLA booth at a local farmers' market, or chatting with the board and other members at a cocktail reception following our annual general meeting on Thursday July 20, with a special preview of the three new exhibits in the new wing of the Muskoka Discovery Centre.

There's never a pause in the MLA's work advocating with governments for rules and decisions to ensure sustainable

development that protects both the environment and our members' stakes in this beautiful place. In our monthly NewsBites, you will have read about the many issues we are addressing.

'Floating accommodations' is a significant new threat – imagine a floating cottage moored all summer off your property. We explained our concerns to our MPP, Graydon Smith (Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry) who has agreed with us about the environmental threat and other risks posed by floating cottages, and introduced a provincial ban. This is huge progress. The next step is to persuade the federal government — which also has jurisdiction — to change rules that currently allow floating cottages. We are working with other lake associations across the province to lobby the federal government and a key way to do this is through petitions. Please come by our MLA booth at a farmers' market to sign a petition, or gather your own signatures – instructions are on our website mla.on.ca/floating-accommodations

Our work on floating cottages shows yet again how the MLA is more effective with more members. With a membership of over 2,200 families (representing more than 11,500 people) the MLA's voice is strong and respected when we speak on an issue.

But Muskoka continues to face significant new challenges to the environment and the community, and we need more members to fund our work and strengthen our voice. In your conversations with Muskoka friends this summer, please let them know about the MLA and the work we do to protect this magnificent place. Please encourage them to join. At \$150 per family, an MLA membership is the best insurance we can buy for our investment in this place we love so greatly.

I wish you and your family a fantastic summer, and hope we will have the chance to meet and say hello at one of our summer events.

Susan Eplett

**DESIGN.
BUILD.
RENOVATE.**

Luxury Custom
Cottage Builder



705.641.1710 • www.cwcinc.ca

WEAR GREEN TO BE SEEN! *continued from page 1*

should opt for bright colours and contrasting colours — not earth tones in the lakes — because standing out can make all the difference when it comes to water safety. (Illustration Credit:ALIVE Solutions)

Want to read more?

<https://www.lalive.com/article/life/safety-tips/water-safety-swimsuit-color/85-c5db3404-7cc1-4fe6-89bb-4202aeeb6514>



MLA member Martha Robinette has a solution with her high-visibility ICU hats and decals available at a number of Muskoka shops. (icusafetyaware.com)

Unfortunately, colour alone is not enough to avoid run-ins with boats. Here are a few more tips on swimming defensively to help you stay safe:

- Don't swim alone – buddy-up if you can
- Swim along the shoreline, not out into open water
- Stay within sight of docks or residences
- Make sure you can hear approaching vessels [NTD — never heard of anyone wearing ear buds in the water — is this a thing? – save the ear buds for later]
- Wear a swim buoy (in fluorescent green) or be accompanied by a canoe, kayak or SUP
- Keep checking for boaters and make sure they see you – [kick up a splash for visibility]

Wishing you a safe summer on the water.

Deborah Martin-Downs



The MLA is working with Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) to promote safe boating and the 'rules of the road'. A major outcome is a co-branded NO WAKE sign.

The signs are ready now. To get one, contact the office at info@mla.on.ca, or call 705-765-5723.



DID YOU KNOW?

That the MLA is a member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association – or FOCA. And because the MLA is a member of FOCA all our members have access to the member benefits and resources that FOCA has to offer. To access the members only part of their website <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/> use this login (note that it will be changing later this year with updates to the FOCA website and should not be shared)

USERNAME: focamember23

PASSWORD: FOCAlogin_2023

FOCA acts much like the MLA does for our member associations – advocating on behalf of its members on issues

that have important implications provincially and locally. In addition they have great resources and benefits including road association kits, lake planning handbook, insurance for road associations and cottages, Cottage Life magazine discounts, good neighbour and renters guides, and Ontario Not for Profit Corporation templates. Check out their amazing website to learn more <https://foca.on.ca/> and make sure to sign up for the FOCA Elerts newsletter when you are there.



2023 MLA BURSARY RECIPIENT — TULELL KERR-BENOIT

Congratulations to this year's MLA Bursary recipient, Tulell Kerr-Benoit. Tulell attends Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School and has a 93 per cent average. With her avid interest in math and science, the completion of her Grade 12 program will include a French immersion certificate and a high achievement award. Tulell will be attending the University of Waterloo in the Nano-Technology Engineering program in September.

The bursary interview team were very impressed with Tulell's wide range of school and volunteer activities. She enjoys volleyball, is an assistant dance teacher, dances ballet, volunteers at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital and collaborated in a team robotics activity. Her participation in the Robotics Club enabled her to understand coding and mechanical skills, problem-solving and trouble-shooting. She made sure her team worked inclusively and that everyone's voice was heard.

Tulell's references describe her as thoughtful, motivated and a responsible leader. Her energy and enthusiasm assist with



her drive to excel in everything to which she applies herself. Her connection to and interest in robotics nano-technology in robotics was astounding with regard to the MLA's water quality program. She anticipates that the future use of micro-robots could improve filtration methods, not just in Muskoka but everywhere. She explained that she wants to be part of making nano-technology a less invasive approach to many different areas, from medicine to mechanical engineering.

Tulell plans to pursue her post-secondary career independently, no matter what it takes, and has a plan to achieve it. She has worked since she was 14 and hopes to enrol in a co-op program to assist her through the next years.

She thanks the Muskoka Lakes Association and its members for this bursary.

We wish her well in her future educational endeavours.

New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA!
From May 2, 2023 to July 4, 2023

Sarah FRENCH

Jake MUZZIN

Bruce POPE

Cindy WILLIAMS

Sharon ROBERTSON

Geoff CRICKMAY

Sandra & Michael

MCCART

Ian DE VERTEUIL

Christine PURDON

Martin GOLDBERG

Mark UUSITALO

Iain & Jane BOYLE

Jamey GAGE

John KINGSTON

TOWER 10 LABS

Inbae AHN

Elizabeth YULE

Geoffrey A. BEAN

Bryce STEWART

THE AGENCY,

MUSKOKA

Mandie CHARLTON

Marc BELLINI

Allison MCCREA

Donna SCOTT

Kathleen SAVAGE



THE GARDINER TEAM

CLIENT FOCUSED • RESULTS DRIVEN

JIM GARDINER* 705.646.7358
IRIS GARDINER* 705.646.6367
LESLEY-ANNE GOODFELLOW** 705.787.6110

CHESTNUT PARK REAL ESTATE LIMITED, BROKERAGE
COTTAGESINMUSKOKA.COM | Office: 705.765.6878
110 Medora Street, Port Carling, Ontario P0B 1J0

Call us for a FREE
and confidential
property evaluation

LIST LOCAL. MARKET GLOBAL.



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

* Broker ** Sales Representative



AVOID BOATING TRAGEDY

Boating is one of Muskoka's favourite pleasures, yet it continues to result in injuries and deaths. Do your part to prevent tragedy, starting with avoiding complacency:

"I can run this route with my eyes closed." Tragedy can strike anywhere, so be aware of the hazards and make safety your top priority.

PREVENT DISTRACTION: Passengers, music and cell phones can easily distract. Would you notice an object as small as the head of a swimmer in the water? Keep watch ahead and a kilometre all around, all the time.

PROVIDE SAFE SPACE: Boats and PWCs "at speed" should be at least 60 metres (200 feet, the length of a hockey rink) away from other boats (including paddle boards, canoes, kayaks and sailboats), land and swimmers. This also means PWCs shouldn't be used to spray other boats or each other.

MAINTAIN SAFE SPEED: When space between boats or to swimmers or land is less than "half a hockey rink" (30 metres), the legal speed limit – throughout Muskoka – sign or no sign – is 9 km/hr, so your bow is DOWN. This also applies to PWCs.

SLOW DOWN FOR BLIND SPOTS: Imagine rounding a corner into a paddleboarder. Tragically, it happens. "Safe speed" (the law) means that you can stop within your field of vision.



| KEEP THE LENGTH OF A HOCKEY RINK FROM LAND |

TOW HUMANS SAFELY: Towing a tuber, skier or boarder? Don't look back! Tell your observer never to take their eyes off the people you tow. Leave the sightseeing and conversation to some other time.

DON'T RUN ONTO DOWNED TUBERS/SKIERS/BOARDERS: Stay downwind and approach slowly from the driver's side of the tow boat.

DON'T DRIVE NIGHT BLIND: At night, turn off car-style headlights. Take a few minutes before setting out at night to allow your eyes to adjust to the reduced light. Dim the dashboard. And NEVER look through a windshield at night.

WEAR A PERSONAL FLOATION DEVICE (PFD): Failure to do so is linked to 90 per cent of drownings. Today's modern versions are lightweight and "cooler" (in every sense of the word).

TETHER UP: Does your ignition have a kill switch? Tether it to your PFD to stop the engine if you get thrown by a wave or become ill.

BE SOBER: Don't mix alcohol or drugs with boating.

GET SMART: Learn how to be a better, safer boater. The MLA website has six e-learning safe boating modules. <https://mla.on.ca/Become-A-Better-Boat-Driver> They're free. View them. Discuss them as a family. In boating, the more you know, the more fun you can have, and the more you can keep everyone safe.

SAFE SPACE: Keep the length of a hockey rink from land, swimmers and other boaters. Within half a rink, slow down, bow down.

ENDURING
beauty

QUALITY
COSMETIC SERVICES
DOWNTOWN PORT CARLING

SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION
905.626.3080 | ENDURINGBEAUTY.CA
ENDURINGBEAUTYCLINIC@GMAIL.COM
@nursechristinern

Summertime, and the livin' is easy. Long, hot, sunny Muskoka days. Tall, ice-packed glass in hand... could anything be better? To keep this picture perfect we need your help to reach our goal of doubling MLA membership in just five years. Just one new member from each current member will do it. So, reach out to friends and neighbours and help us bring new members to the MLA. Just call the office with a name and contact info and we'll do the rest.



HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MEMBERSHIP GOAL!
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

NOW FIND MEMBER INFO ONLINE!

You can now easily find MLA member information on our website (mla.on.ca) to connect with friends at home or at the lake.

To access the Member Directory, first log in to your account. If this is your first time logging in, you will need to reset your password by clicking "forgot password;" an email will be sent to you prompting you to reset your password.

Once logged in, go to the "About" tab, click "Directory and Yearbook" and then click the link at the bottom of the page. The link will give you access to digital versions of our past yearbooks and the current Member Directory. It's that easy!

Cottaging with family and friends this summer?



- Supplying Muskoka with **Quality Bunk Beds** for over 50 years
- Wide variety of colours, styles, sizes & combinations available
- Visit our Showroom in Toronto or conveniently order online!
- Delivery & Set-Up Services available

the **bunkHouse**

136 Tycos Dr. North York ON M6B 1W8
bunkhousekids.com 1-800-588-8339



TURTLES ALL THE WAY DOWN: SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT SNAPPING TURTLES



The common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) is a familiar Muskoka resident, sporting a rugged, muscular build with a rigid carapace (upper shell) and a feisty disposition when out of the water. Snapping turtles here in the northern part of their natural range mature later (15 – 20 years) and larger than their southern cousins, with a carapace length of up to 20 in., and weighing up to 75 lb. (34 kg), in the wild. Long-term data from Algonquin Park suggest snapping turtles can live more than 100 years.

Here are five surprising facts about snapping turtles you may not know.

1. Turtles, but especially snapping turtles, are the water creatures considered the best at cleaning the water: they remove the dead and decaying bodies of fishes, frogs, and other lake creatures. They are like turkey-vultures of the lake. Without turtles in your lake, the bacteria levels will rise.

2. Turtles need to live a long time, because it takes an average 25 years for a turtle to replace itself once in nature, and at least 25 years for subsequent offspring to succeed — less than one per cent of turtle eggs survive and the subsequent hatchlings live to adulthood. Adult turtles are the most important members of a population because they face fewer natural threats. Adults can therefore help sustain populations by producing many more offspring in their lifetime. However, because of human predation, the pet trade and now more road traffic, turtle populations are declining rapidly and may never rebound. This means the health of our lakes and our drinking water is also at risk.

3. Turtles are sacred creatures, as old as the dinosaurs. It is said that turtles were around when God created the world, and they witnessed all of creation. In Anishinaabe teachings, turtles are a symbol of truth; North America was made on the turtle's back and is referred to as Turtle Island. Also, each hard shelled turtle in North America has 13 scutes (triangles) on its shell representing the 13 moons in each year. Each turtle here too has 28 ridges around its shell, representing the 28 days between moons.

4. Snapping turtles snap on land because they are the only turtles that do not have a sufficiently large plastron (an under-carriage) and they therefore cannot hide or tuck in like other turtles. The only way they can protect themselves while on the land is to snap.

5. Snapping turtles are protected, because they are a species at risk. Harming a snapping turtle has carried fines of up to \$25,000 in Ontario.

Everyone has a turtle story. Save our turtles. Think twice before you harm our environment.

To find out more, visit our project page: www.turtleguardians.com



**Cottages are special places.
Let us help you insure yours.**

COCKBURN ISLAND

David Browne
dbrowne@mmr.ca
416-520-7042

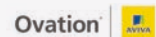
Darcy Browne
darcybrowne@mmr.ca
416-710-4074

LAURIE ISLAND

Philip Goad
pgoad@mmr.ca
416-738-4412



mmr.ca



Local's Corner

Bakery By The Lake



Port Carling has a number of lovely shops and services, but one thing that has been missing is a bakery. That has now changed with the opening of Bakery by the Lake.

The takeout-only bakery has recently been renovated and is presided over by owner Sue Ramdat. Sue's dream was to open her own business, where her passion and dedication for food could shine and create amazing memories for the community.

The bakery offers an array of pastries, macarons, irresistible cakes, butter croissants, chocolatey brownies, cupcakes and more. Everything is fresh and baked in-store. While we were there, Chef Sue was putting the finishing touches on a beautiful birthday cake, and croissants were flying out the door. Custom cakes, unique to your taste and vision, are her specialty.

She is now offering a bread special on Saturdays, and almond croissants on Sunday — it's best to pre-order as everything disappears quickly.

Of note, the businesses around the bakery are all owned by women, and feature home décor and women's clothing. Definitely worth checking out when you drop in to pick up your baked goods!

The bakery is open Thursday and Friday from 7-4, Saturday and Sunday 9-3.

Bakery by the Lake, 1 Lock St. E., #3, Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0, 647-760-7445

Cathie Mostowyk



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@mmla.on.ca | W www.mmla.on.ca