



MALCOLM ARDOCH LAKES LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING NEWSLETTER (May 2021)



Drone flight between Malcolm and Ardoch (Photo courtesy of Justin Whitton)

Another year with caution and monitoring for everyone's health to avoid Covid-19. Health Guidelines and Restrictions are the main topic on the radio and newspapers daily. Yes, we all feel like grumbling about the "new normal" but at least our lakes are not among the high-risk zones. For those coming from urban sites, we offer our thanks for following the rules to avoid the spread. When lockdown is over, those of us who live permanently on the lake look forward to visiting an urban site, while the seasonal cottage owners I am sure would like to have a long peaceful time at the cottage.

To those families who have lost a loved one during this period we offer our condolences. It is not only Covid-19 that has taken friends and neighbours from us. We do not have a complete list to share at this time. Please contact the Secretary if there is news to share.

SECRETARY REPORT (Kathy Smith malasecretary@gmail.com ; ksmipicadilly@gmail.com or, call 613-479-5583)

I initially volunteered for this position to record the minutes for the Annual AGM and Executive Meetings and maintain the membership database ONLY.

I then decided to coordinate septic tank cleaning and furnace maintenance/repair to facilitate group savings for the MALLA membership. I do not want to commit to coordinating septic tank cleaning, etc. for 2021 since that is not a recognized role for a new elected Secretary.

I have also expanded my duties over the past year/s to include Municipal notices regarding Covid restrictions, lost property, death notices, etc.

Executive positions are **overdue** for election due to Covid restrictions last year.

I want to reiterate that the Secretary position requirements are to record the minutes for the Annual AGM and Executive Meetings and maintain the membership database ONLY. DO NOT be discouraged from volunteering for this position.

MEMBERSHIP (Allan - jamieson_a@sympatico.ca)

May 1, 2021 starts another fiscal year for MALLA. Our membership renewal campaign also kicks off again. As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we had received fees from 60 members in 2020/2021. Thank you to everyone who paid in 2020/2021- it was greatly appreciated. The membership fee of \$30.00 for 2021/2022 is unchanged from last year.

Though we were unable to get together, the fees collected are extremely important as MALLA has other operating expenses that were still required to be paid. Our annual insurance policy fee is \$1081.08; as well we pay \$328.00 dues to be a member of FOCA. There are other miscellaneous expenses that occur in the day to day running of the executive. We are hopeful that some social events may be held this summer; these will be supported in part by your membership fees.

Your membership fees can be paid either by E-transfer to **jamieson_a@sympatico.ca** which is a direct deposit to MALLA's account in the Bank of Montreal; or by mailing the membership form and a cheque payable to MALLA, to me. A membership form is attached to the newsletter mailout. The address is:

Allan Jamieson ,6364 Larmond Ave, Ottawa ON K1C 2H6

Thank you to everyone who paid in 2020/2021, it was greatly appreciated.

RECRUITMENT (Ruth Cooper VP Ardoch Lake, Brenda Martin VP Malcolm Lake)

Hello fellow Lake Residents!!!

Great Blue Heron (Photo courtesy of Marlene Gray)

Spring is here and everyone is thinking about what this cottage season will look like? It has been a long winter with pandemic restrictions; we all hope for a brighter summer, with some relaxing time by the lake. With that in mind, the MALLA executive have been thinking about having a



possible AGM – perhaps virtual. We have some positions that are up for renewal or are still vacant. Brenda Martin and myself are hoping that we might have someone to replace us for Vice-Presidents. Brenda has also held the Stewardship Coordinator role and would like to step down. We have had a vacancy for President and would very much like to have someone take over those reins. Also, there is always need for volunteers for the Fishing and Social committee.

Please consider one of these roles. There are several people to help new executive and it is certainly a good opportunity to meet fellow lake residents and get to know more about our lake and our stewardship of it. Hoping to hear from you!!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK (Brenda Martin)

MALLA is an associate of the North Frontenac Lakes Association Alliance. They have a new logo and website www.nflaa.ca and there will be reports from NFLAA to which I will refer in future. This organization of 20 lakes has been active with regards to matters that pertain to most if not all lakes with the Township.



Normally, the President of each Lake Association is the contact, however, we have been lacking a President for the second year. I have participated in all the NFLAA Zoom meetings and Ruth has joined for very critical discussions. There are a few topics that are being addressed by Sub-Committees of NFLAA. The first one is: Septic System Re-inspection.

Septic System Re-inspection has been a major priority for MALLA since The Lake Plan was published in 2016. The connection between water quality and systems is a critical one. The Township has continued to be supportive of the voluntary inspections AND pays for 100 inspections yearly. I would like to strongly encourage our lake property owners to volunteer to have one of the FREE inspections. If your septic system has not been checked in the past 10 years, IT IS DUE. Eric will give you a heads-up with preventative measures so you should not reach a crisis.



This ALERT will apply mainly to Malcolm Lake owners as Ardoch Lake owners have either new systems or have been checked in recent years. Those on Ardoch Lake with only an outdoor toilet may benefit from calling Eric to see if you need to do anything else. **Make the call this month so you have a spot on the list.**

Eric Kohlsmith Mississippi Rideau Septic

ekohlsmith@mvca.on.ca (613) 253-0006 (EXT.256)

In our WELCOME package distributed to each MALLA member, we have included the SEPTIC SMART booklet that serves as a great resource. If you do not have a WELCOME package, please contact Brenda dbmartin@explornet.ca and one will be assembled for you. There are many resources in the package such as the Boating Card, Fish Card, Loon Information, Invasive

Species booklets, Shoreline Care, etc...

The second topic of interest I think to all residents: **Internet and Cell Phone Service**. I am on a sub-committee chaired by Russ Brown, Buckshot Lake. There has been considerable media coverage about various options that WILL be available to our area. NFLAA is expecting a reply to our request from EORN with an update. When this is available, we will communicate with you.

The third topic: Short Term Cottage Rentals surfaced this winter when one lake association asked for other lakes to contact the Township to show support for a By-Law on Short Term Cottage Rentals. The Council meeting was scheduled for the next week, therefore the Executive hustled to do some initial surveying to see if people on our lakes rented for short periods. In fact, several rent to help cover the cost of the taxes and insurance. The proposed by-law had annual costs estimated to be \$1400 per cottage and this would eliminate any profit made by renting. The real issue behind the request stems from a different matter. That is NOISE CONTROL! The original letter seeking support, suggested that the “renters” were causing by-law infractions such as fireworks beyond the set hours, loud music, partying that was disruptive to neighbours. Council decided that renters should provide a Guidebook to follow for anyone renting their property and the staff will provide a list of materials that should be in that guide. It is my understanding that those property owners on Malcolm Lake have provided such a guide for years.

This issue does not necessarily apply only to “renters”. What about owners? Our family has owned our cottage/renovated to be a home for over 25 years. In all that time, we have experienced a few irritating violations, but for the most part, everyone has been willing to keep the lake as a peaceful setting. It is probable that complaints will come to the Township from other lake associations or individuals, especially if the noise violation officer does not deal with matters that are reported. Let’s be good neighbours and keep the peace! The alternative could be much worse!

Fishing Committee Report (David Smith dsmithardoch@gmail.com or 613-479-5583)



Successful Walleye Watch 2021

We were able to perform the walleye count on Malcolm Lake April 3, 4 and 6, 2021. The average count was 300 walleye per night. These are very encouraging numbers.

However, we were unable to perform the count on Ardoch Lake due to ice initially and then warmer water temperatures.

I would like to acknowledge the following people for contributing time and material to this venture:

- Don Martin for the use of his boat.
- Don & Brenda Martin; Jen, Matt, Zach & Isabella Baker for assisting to count the walleye.
- Bob Beauchamp for volunteering as well.



Buoys

The buoys will be placed prior to the long weekend of May 22, 2021.

Fishing Derby and Fry

Unfortunately, the Fishing Derby and Fry has not been scheduled at this time due to Covid.

NOTE: Contact me @ dsmithardoch@gmail.com or 613-479-5583 if you are interested in volunteering your time for Fishing Committee activities.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (Brenda Martin dbmartin@xplornet.ca (613) 479-2837)

What a year!!! Stewardship Committee continued to address items through educational Zoom sessions and e-mail updates. We greatly missed our table discussions; most activities were postponed or modified.

EURASIAN MILFOIL MANAGEMENT PLAN (2018-2020)



(Photo courtesy of Roy Burgess)

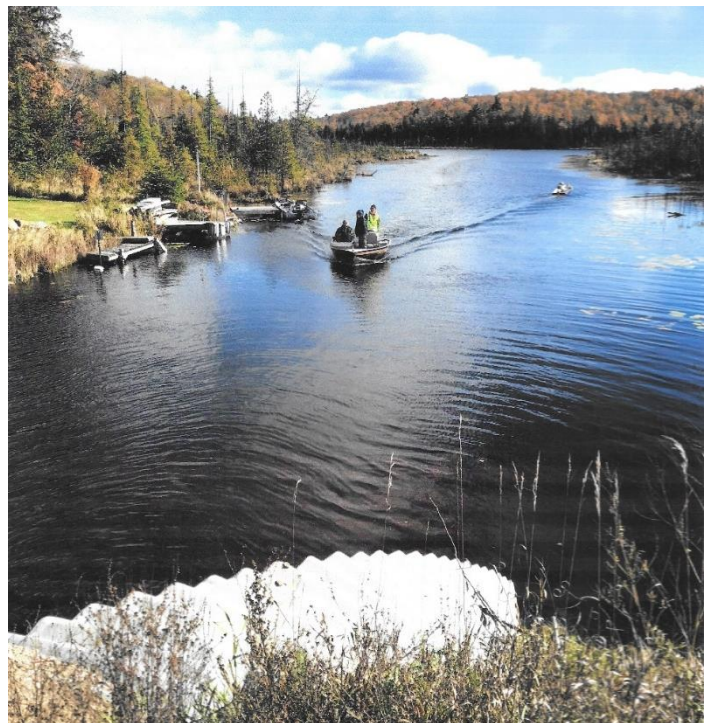
Given that the pilot project to investigate and attempt to control EWM in our lakes was leading-edge research, I have invested many hours into the 2020 reporting. This involved communication with our EWM partners: Carleton University, Patrick Beaupre, Eric Guitard, Prof. Jesse Vermaire; and Above & Beyond, Wade Leonard who had to complete the flight missions without students. Boating crews in 2020 consisted of Roy Burgess, Jim Whitton, and use of Reg Hamilton's barge. Our thanks to these people who had to be ready on short notice if weather conditions were suitable. We have massive amounts of data and I am trying to compile a useful report for our MALLA members, the Township of North Frontenac, MNRF Bancroft, Watersheds Canada and MCVA.

For the June AGM Reports, I expect to post the MALLA Integrated Management Plan document (over 80 pages). Hopefully, it can be uploaded to the server. There will be summarized versions that will be part of the Stewardship Annual Report.



BELOW: Roy Burgess, Jim Whitton, Wade Leonard Returning from a 2020 flight on Ardoch Lake

For now, I would like to say that MALLA was VERY fortunate to have Carleton University graduates, two years in a row, and Prof. Jesse Vermaire who is well-known for his studies in this area. Add to that, the drone support and mapping provided by Above & Beyond from Wade Leonard.



SUMMARY OF PILOT STUDY MALCOLM AND ARDOCH LAKES (2018-2020)

The results of our study have indicated the following:

- Hand-pulling of Eurasian Water Milfoil in shallow areas has positive results.
- Clearing EWM from beach areas before it roots has a positive effect.
- Educating the public was critical to our efforts.
- Benthic barriers (burlap) successfully prevented growth of EWM under the mats.

- The benthic barriers were still intact by the end of the sampling season. There were no observed instances of macrophytes growing through the burlap, although there was some tenting where the mats failed to press the plants into the sediment, and some cases of plants growing out from under the side of the mats. The mats themselves were covered in a thin periphyton and both bluegills (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and small-mouthed bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) were observed swimming in the resultant trenches made through the dense macrophyte patch.
- Small treatments using burlap benthic barriers appear to have a minimal impact on localized abiotic factors and are unlikely to have any significant or lasting effects. However, changes in species assemblages of zooplankton did occur following the application of the management technique, implying that large scale burlap barrier applications may cause serious disruptions to other aquatic interactions within a lake.
- Boat traffic is the greatest cause of spreading of EWM.
- The use of native weevils (in our segregated sample pond) reduced the EWM colony.
- Control of aquatic invasive species is an issue beyond the resources available at a Municipal level. Provincial and federal intervention would be required.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS FROM MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY-

Alyson Symon, of MCVA, usually attended our Stewardship meetings since the development of The Lake Plan. In 2020 Alyson was redirected by MCVA to be the Watershed Planner for the Mississippi Watershed. We have missed her regular contact, but Alyson has continued to answer questions on a need's basis.

Until I participated in the "MCVA Lunchtime Talks" sessions February -March, I had no idea that her new role was such an enormous responsibility. In addition to the Zoom sessions, the Discussion papers prepared by the Watershed Planning Committee are now available at www.mcv.on.ca/WatershedPlan

Three of the papers I would recommend are: Waterfront Property, Natural Systems and Water Management. For those of us who ponder why the water levels in the local lakes seem to be so low this spring, there is a direct connection to the dam systems along the Mississippi River. The amount of water released at the Mazinaw could have a very hazardous affect on the people at Mississippi Mills. The condition of each dam in the Watershed has been studied and without replacement for high priority ones, those along the watershed have something to worry about. IF we had an AGM, it would be very appropriate to have Alyson Symon, educate us further.

EDUCATIONAL SESSION- NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA



Recently a number of Stewardship Committee participated in one of the Zoom sessions in the Invasive Species Series sponsored by Friends of the Salmon River. Among the invasive species that MALLA wanted to examine was **phragmites**. I had participated in an on-site training session with Amanda Tracey in 2019 where we removed a phragmites population in Erinsville. There are many considerations for removal and by asking specific questions, I hoped to have more techniques to use at Malcolm and Ardoch Lakes. Amanda was the presenter and replied in writing to our inquiries. This information may help us with the Phragmites removal projects in 2021.

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION GRANT 2021

MALLA was invited to apply for a FOCA grant under Green Shovels Theme for the removal of Phragmites from our lake areas. It has been identified as the “WORST” invasive species in Eastern Ontario for the past several years. Who would think there was one worse than EWM!!! Stewardship identified four locations and described our strategies for removal. MALLA will receive \$1000. towards the control of phragmites with restrictions that the funds will be applied to small tools, tarps, and the use of tractors for removal of large patches. The FOCA Committee were obligated to follow the control methods outlined in the 2020 document developed by The Ontario Invasive Plant Council. This amount (\$1000) was the top \$\$ awarded for any of the projects so we are pleased to be able to have financial assistance with this project given that Stewardship intended to address in 2021 IF POSSIBLE. When the project gets underway, we will be recruiting volunteers.

Our shorelines have many interesting and beautiful structures as shown in the photo below.

Courtesy of Cathy Owen.

