



MALLA STEWARDSHIP CHAIR REPORT 2022 by Brenda Martin

The role of Stewardship Chair has been an awesome opportunity to learn about factors affecting our lakes. In the beginning, the Committee members focused on educating the members and baseline data collection. Some programs initiated were: Love Your Lake, The Natural Edge program, walleye bed rehabilitation, a fact sheet about walleye, a fact sheet about loons, Wildflower Identification tour, Bird Identification tour, Invasive Species Community Session at Clar-Mill Hall, brochures and booklets for lake preservation and invasive species identification, Aquatic Invasive Species identification card, Signs for the boat launch, Drone Deploy with Above & Beyond, the Eurasian Water Milfoil pilot project, and recently The Green Shovels Phragmites Control. We have produced teaching calendars for implementing the Lake Plan entitled The Four Seasons and for identifying native and non-native local wildflowers. I also served as the editor for the book “The History of The Lakes: Malcolm and Ardoch”.

Water quality continues to be monitored through monthly sampling Lake Partners program, and recently ISampleON. The data from these sources will be beneficial for early intervention if required.

The latest newsletter highlighted topics that will be of interest to MALLA members for the coming years: Clean+ Drain+ Dry Your Boat legislation, Live Bait Fishing legislation, *Lymantria dispar* (gypsy moth) infestations, waste management, bird population declines, and septic maintenance. I predict that Stewardship activities will need to concentrate on invasive species and climate control factors. I have attached an article from FOCA entitled “Top 10 Tips: Climate Change Challenge”. These are things to think about as they relate to your property on the lake. The article ends with a reach out to the government which is SO appropriate for the work that the Stewardship Committee conducted

related to Eurasian Water Milfoil. The problem is bigger than MALLA can handle; bigger than municipal government; it is a problem requiring provincial and federal government intervention.

The Stewardship Chair position has provided me with many leadership opportunities. I have been honoured with the Gord Rodgers Memorial Award from the Lake Links organization in 2019 for OUR efforts to preserve freshwater lakes and in 2022 by the Invasive Species Centre for Leadership in Ontario to control invasive species. I did not invest the time and physical effort into the projects to be given an “award”. The “reward” is to see improvement and preservation of our two lakes. Also, these awards do not honour the skilled Stewardship Committee and lake volunteers who helped implement the projects along with me, that is why I said OUR efforts. I sincerely thank each person who helped be a steward in any way for our lakes. I am leaving the Stewardship Chair position on a high note, with things accomplished and other things to be continued, or initiated. I hope the next person finds the role as rewarding as I did.

Top 10 Tips: Climate Change Challenge

We all have an important role to play in reducing the impacts of climate change and keeping the environment healthy for future generations. Here are some ideas to keep the lake environment healthy, and reduce your own carbon footprint at the cottage.

1. PADDLE VS. MOTOR: Reach more often for the paddle instead of the boat keys, and enjoy nature at a slower pace!

2. LET THE SHORELINE BE: Do the environment (and yourself) a favour, and choose the hammock over the lawn mower this summer. Plants at the water's edge help filter nutrients, store carbon and prevent erosion, while underwater logs and rock piles provide protection and spawning ground for fish.

3. STARRY, STARRY NIGHTS: Don't be a night polluter. Turn off unnecessary exterior lights and substitute down-facing fixtures where possible. Floodlights and other high-wattage outdoor bulbs are energy-eaters and can even mess up the mating and feeding behaviour of wildlife, while stealing the view from star gazers.

4. SWITCH THE COTTAGE WATTAGE: For indoor light, switch from incandescent bulbs to LEDs, which cost you and the environment a lot less in the long-run. They last up to 50 times longer and use about one-tenth the amount of electricity.

5. CLEAN-UP: Manage garbage responsibly at the cottage. Recycle and compost as much as possible, remove fishing lines from the lake, and discourage wildlife from eating leftovers by storing all trash in tightly sealed containers and keeping pet food dishes indoors.

6. BBQ: If it's time for a new BBQ at the cottage consider gas or propane models which are more environmentally responsible than charcoal that releases toxic by-products into the air.

7. ELECTRIC IDEAS: Keep an eye out for 'dinosaur' appliances - old fridges can use more than four times the energy of a new, efficient model. Appliance retailers, utility companies and local waste-management services may pick up old units for free when they deliver a new one, which even saves you cottage time.

8. MOTOR MATTERS: Replace old two-stroke engines with more efficient 'clean marine' options (clean two stroke, or four-stroke) and off-road vehicle engine technology, and keep engines in top repair to lower emissions.

9. BEWARE THE PHANTOM LOAD: Use power bars to isolate electronics that can be turned off when you're away because some devices (including TVs, DVD players, stereos, computers) can continue to steal power even after they're turned 'off.'

10. HUG A TREE: Retain mature trees as natural insulators on your property. Deciduous trees on the south and west of our buildings provide shade in summer, and let sun through in winter. Conifers on the north and northwest sides will help block cold winds in winter.

Please keep in touch with FOCA and let us know how many of these, or other climate-conscious actions, you take on this year! For more tips on how to be a low-impact cottager, see our new publication on page 3 (Climate Change guide).

Bonus Points: Reach out to Local Government

Write, email or (better yet) drop in to talk to the folks in charge of your cottage community, and find out what they plan to do, to reduce the impacts of climate change and keep the local environment healthy. Get links to local politicians here: <https://foca.on.ca/raise-your-political-voice-tips-from-foca/>



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