

MORRISON LAKE

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020, ISSUE 1



DOCK DAYS ON ML...

AN UPDATE FROM THE LAKE

Stay connected with us:

Be a part of our mailing list -
email your name & cottage address to
mlra.annual.dues@gmail.com

Join our ML Facebook community -
'Morrison Lake, Ontario'
for updates, photos, event info, & more!

Watch this space for our website makeover -
www.morrisonlake.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Official MLRA Regatta 2020
Announcement:
**All official MLRA
sanctioned Regatta events
for this year are cancelled
due to COVID-19.**

- The Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association (MLRA) will meet on **Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 1pm at the Landing** pending COVID-19 restrictions. (The MLRA meeting scheduled for May 17, 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.)





Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association

MLRA ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES - \$25.00

For the 2020 year,
pay your dues through e-transfer!

E-Transfer \$25.00 to
mlra.annual.dues@gmail.com
with your **full name,**
cottage address, &
security answer - Morrison

Alternatively,
if you would like to pay with
cheque or cash, contact us at
mlra.annual.dues@gmail.com,
or give it to an Executive member.



DO YOU HAVE ANY VINTAGE ML T-SHIRTS?

Sue Kelly is creating a ML quilt that will be made of old ML t-shirts - whether they are from the 70's, 80's, 90's or 2000's!

Please drop them off at **1051 Evanswood Drive** - South-East corner of the lake (lakeside has a Canadian flag and blue-coloured water slide)

Tickets will be sold for the quilt as a fundraiser for the MLRA

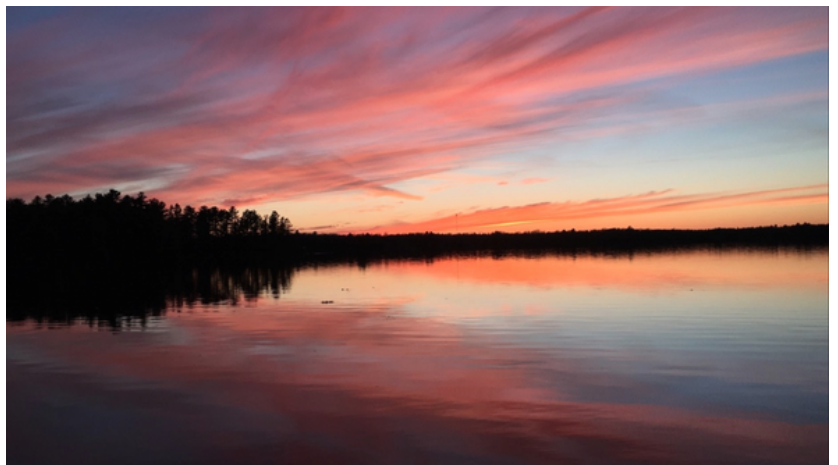
MEET YOUR 2020 MLRA EXEC!

President: James Doyle
Vice-President: Mark Wadey
Secretary: Chelsea Doyle
Treasurer: Katie LeMoine
Lake Steward: Pete LeMoine
Fire Safety: Mike Kelly & Connor Bolton

Interested in getting involved? Email mlra.annual.dues@gmail.com

Annual Dues Collection of \$25 per cottage includes the following benefits:

- Ratepayers' Insurance
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) membership
- Representation of ML community concerns
- ML Regatta
- Fire Pumps (see page 6 or our website for the ML fire pump map - **print this reference off for your cottage!**)
- www.morrisonlake.ca



MORRISON LAKE WATER QUALITY UPDATE

- PETE LEMOINE, MLRA LAKE STEWARD

The Lake Partner Program which measures spring phosphorus levels and water clarity throughout the season continued in 2019. Our results continue to be relatively good news. Phosphorus at all 3 test locations is under 10ug/l putting us in the category of 69% of Muskoka's lakes – low nutrient level. Above 10ug/l moves us into the medium nutrient group of 30% of Muskoka's lakes. Our 2019 nutrient level was higher than 2017 and 2018 – obviously not a trend we can be proud of. The 10-year average has been increasing from 8.5 in 2015 to 9.0 in 2019. How do we improve this?

Our better than predicted impacts from COVID-19 in Canada have been primarily due to the personal behaviour of each citizen. The protection and potential enhancement of our water quality and environment is exactly the same – our individual behavior impacts the lake.

Top of the list is to create and/or enhance your vegetative shoreline buffer:

- Filters runoff – rain that runs off the land can be slowed and will infiltrate into the buffer, which helps settle out sediment, nutrients and other pollutants before they reach the water.
- Absorbs nutrients – nutrients from fertilizers and septic systems are taken up by tree roots. Phosphorus and nitrogen will be stored in leaves, limbs and roots instead of reaching the water. Phosphorus is the main nutrient of concern in the lakes of Muskoka. (You are much too wise and responsible to still allow any fertilizer use, aren't you?)
- Protects banks from erosion – tree and shrub roots hold the bank soils together and stems protect banks by deflecting the cutting action of boat wakes, waves, and stormwater.
- Helps reduce the impacts from flooding and stormwater runoff – by slowing the velocity of runoff, the shoreline buffer allows the water to soak into the ground, and shoreline vegetation helps cycle water from the ground to the air through evapotranspiration.
- Encourages geese to stay off your property and instead contaminate those properties that still insist on having a “city lawn” at the lake!

Discouraging Canada Geese:

The trick is to make your property less attractive to Canada geese by obstructing the shoreline and removing the short grass they feed upon. To accomplish this, stop mowing the grass along your shoreline. In no time, you'll have a vegetative buffer (a strip of vegetation along your shoreline) that Canada geese will no longer like to eat, and you will have removed their lake access. Studies are indicating that increased populations of Geese on lakes have a measurable impact.

To speed up the process, you can plant some native trees, tall coarse grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Your buffer should be tall enough so that geese can't see over the plants and ideally be at least three metres wide. However, if your property doesn't allow for a buffer of this width, make it as wide as you can. Trees and shrubs along your shoreline can also help to frame your view of the lake while preventing your shoreline from eroding away.

For help on your shoreline re-naturalization project, check out The Natural Edge program through MWC and get advice, a planting plan for your property, and a Shoreline Re-naturalization Starter Kit for one low price! Love your lake has some great info - loveyourlake.ca/natural-shoreline/

We all drive by Hidden Habitat at 2017 Southwood Rd. Laura Thomas has native species and advice to help. Check out the online store with plant kits and a shoreline kit - hiddenhabitat.square.site/product/on-the-water-shoreline-kit/95

One of the best resources and a must for every cottage is the Living In Cottage Country book by the Muskoka Watershed Council. It is available from the MLRA for \$20, send us an email and we'll deliver your spiral bound book. www.muskokawatershed.org/resources/handbook/

For more information on the health of Muskoka Watershed see:

www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/report-card/2018-report-card/2018-report-card-infographic/



DECORATE THE ML SIGN AT THE FORKS!

Let's spruce up our ML sign at the forks -
Southwood Rd and South Morrison Lake Rd!

Any artwork can be dropped off to Jenny
Fairbrass at the end of Balfour Woods Road.

All ages welcome!

AN UPDATE FROM PAUL KELLY

GRAVENHURST MAYOR WITH A COMMUNITY UPDATE

A COVID-19 update for June 17, 2020:

- Muskoka is in Stage 2 as of June 12th - social distancing protocols are still in place
- Recreation activities, such as, tennis, golf, hiking, beaches, outdoor pools, and camp grounds are starting to open
- Many businesses have been given the green light to open, with medical protocols in place. Restaurants may open patios, along with personal care services, the Muskoka drive-in, and Farmer's market!
- Support our local businesses!

Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Update for July 7, 2020 - Public will be required to wear face coverings in all indoor public spaces in Simcoe Muskoka

As of Monday July 13, 2020, the public is required to wear a face covering (i.e., non-medical mask) when entering the indoor premises of businesses, organizations and on public transit systems in Simcoe Muskoka. This will be achieved through instructions to businesses and organizations to have a policy in place requiring this. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is issuing these instructions under the authority of the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) in an effort to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19."

"As we move through the stages of the reopening of the economy there is an increased risk of resurgence of COVID-19 transmission in our communities. Locally we are seeing more visitors from other parts of the province with a much higher incidence of COVID-19, resulting in crowding in public spaces, and this has us concerned," said Dr. Charles Gardner, SMDHU's medical officer of health.

"There is emerging evidence that suggests the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced with a high level of compliance of non-medical mask use by the public. As well, we have a great deal of support for the use of face coverings in indoor public spaces from municipalities, physicians and hospitals, and other community partners.

"Our businesses and organizations that are open to the public have worked diligently to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and many already ask that patrons and clients wear a face covering," said Dr. Gardner. "Requiring the public to wear a face covering is an extra step to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and is key for the continued successful reopening of the local economy and to safeguard our residents against the virus in circulation now, into the fall and beyond."

For more information about COVID-19, including frequently asked questions and signage for businesses, see www.smdhu.org or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

HEY MORRISON LAKERS!

Isolation has got me baking all kinds of goods! Cakes, loafs, cookies, squares, etc. If you are up and craving something sweet hit me up! I am always keen to try new recipes if you've got something in mind or you can check out my Instagram account for what I have made so far. Please give me at least 48hrs between order and pick up time. Hope I can make your lives a little sweeter this summer!

- Kates Kreations xx

@KatesKreationsss
(905)758-9677



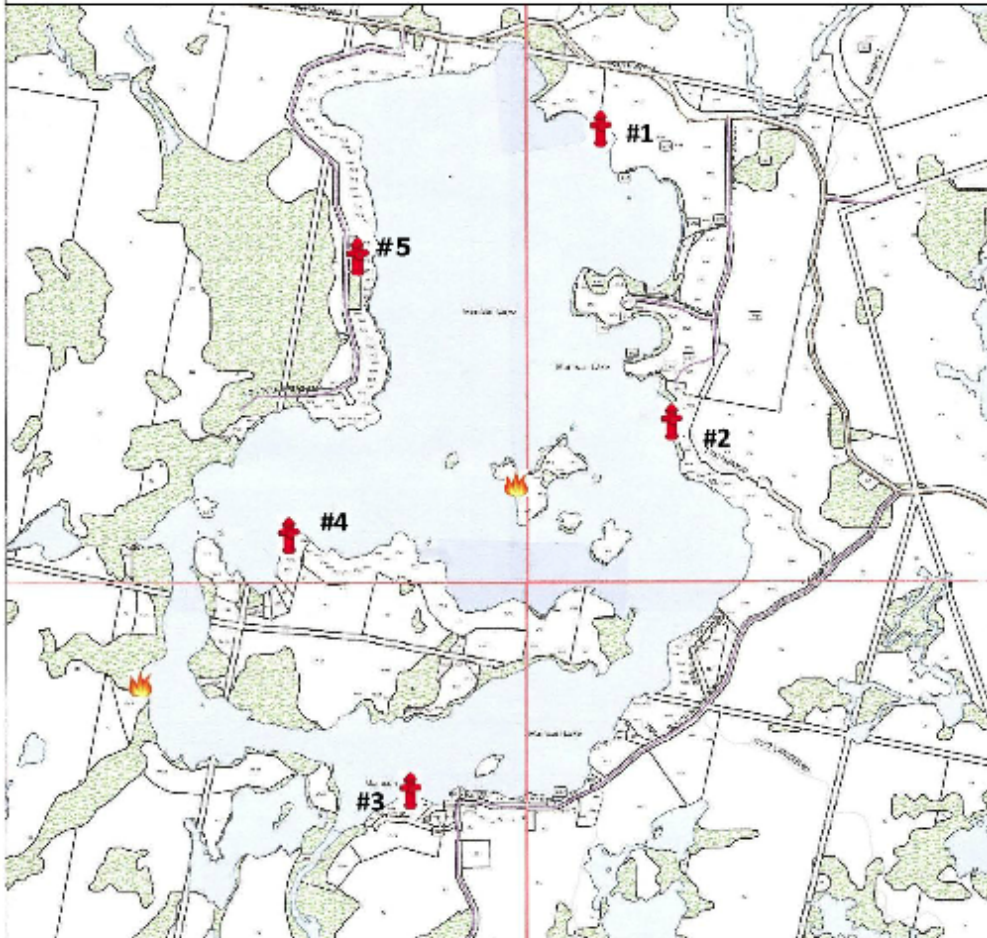
SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION TO THE LOCAL FIRE STATION & VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS!

On behalf of the MLRA, Brad Fairbrass picked up pizzas and delivered them to our local Fire Station during a training night for the volunteer Firefighters. They really appreciated this thank you from Morrison Lake for all of their efforts to protect us!



FIRE PUMP LOCATIONS

- Pump # 1 BUSCHKE DOCK
 Pump # 2 BOORMAN'S – EVANSWOOD ROAD
 Pump # 3 SOUTH MORRISON LAKE ROAD at COVE ROAD (First Cottage on Right on Cove Road)
 Pump # 4 PROCTOR'S POINT – MILE ISLAND
 Pump # 5 Blair Foley's Dock (1133 North Morrison Lake Rd)



All Morrison Lake cottagers are encouraged to pay their dues to allow the maintenance and upkeep of such things as the fire pumps

FIRE PUMP LOCATION ADDRESS

#1 - Buschke Dock - 2839 Southwood Road. Kilworthy, ON. POE 1G0

Defibrillator is located at the Buschke's on the wall closest to the driveway.

#2 - Boorman's - 1080 Evanswood Road. Kilworthy, ON. POE 1G0

#3 - Stevens-Bennett Point - 1194 South Morrison Lake Road at Cove Road entrance

#4 - Proctor's Point - 38 Island 2ML (across from 1179 North Morrison Lake Road Landing and Boat Launch)

#5 - Foley's Dock - 1133 North Morrison Lake Road. Kilworthy, ON. POE 1G0

The 911 address for the Landing and Boat Launch is: 1179 North Morrison Lake Road

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL



What can we do to help limit this invasive species?

Eurasian Water-Milfoil is an invasive species that is becoming increasingly more prevalent in Morrison Lake. It prefers shallow water (1-3 metres deep) but can root in up to 10 metres. This species is a very fast-growing perennial, it forms dense underwater mats that grow to the surface. Because tiny plant pieces can develop into new plants, it is easily spread with water currents, boat propellers, trailers or fishing gear cut and/or carry plant fragments.

Impact

- Reduces biodiversity by competing aggressively with native plants.
- Reduced oxygen levels in the water caused by decomposing plants can kill fish.
- Thick mats of this plant can hinder recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing.
- Can create stagnant water, which is an ideal habitat for mosquitoes.

How to Identify Eurasian Water-Milfoil

- Perennial that grows under the water surface.
- Feather-like green leaves circle the stem in groups of four or five.
- Leaves have 12 or more thread-like segments.

What You Can Do?

- Learn how to identify Eurasian Water-Milfoil and how to prevent accidentally spreading this plant with your watercraft or fishing equipment.
- **Avoid infested areas or reduce your speed when travelling near infestations! Your propeller can break off fragments and spread the pieces to new areas. New plants can grow from small pieces of the plant.**
- Remove any pieces you see floating in the lake to avoid regrowth.
- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment after each use.
- Remove all plants, animals and mud before moving to a new waterbody. If you find Eurasian Water-Milfoil or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the toll-free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit EDDMapS Ontario website to report a sighting.

MINUTES FROM THE MLRA MAY 19, 2019 MEETING

Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association

Meeting: MLRA Semi Annual
Date: May 19, 2019 – 1pm
Location: N Morrison Lake Rd Landing
Recorder: Mark Wadey

Present: James Doyle
Mark Wadey

Absent: Chelsea Doyle
Katie Lemoine

Also Present: Pete Lemoine

Call to order

James Doyle, President, called the meeting to order at 1pm.

James Doyle welcomed everyone and made introductions, asked for declaration of any items to be added to the agenda. No additional items brought up

Approximately 15 families present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 2, 2018

Approval of the Minutes of the MLRA Meeting held on Sunday, September 2 2018 was moved by Mark Wadey, and seconded by Pete LeMoine. CARRIED

Business Arising

There was no Business Arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Membership

Pete Lemoine on behalf of Katie Lemoine presented that there is \$17,792.21 in the bank as of May 1 2019. 85 members paid dues in 2018 for a total of \$2,130.00. In 2017 there were 93 families (\$2,315) and 2016 we had 86 members paid (\$2,150) that paid the annual due of \$25. Ideas will be discussed to increase the number of families who pay the annual dues. Members would like to do etransfers, however issue with changing bank accounts to accommodate and the increased cost associate with that. Felt it was not prudent to make that switch.

Important when members pay dues to provide full name, phone # and email address to track membership.

Hire a student was discussed to go door to door to collect dues.

Regatta 2018 Financial Recap

It generated \$2,959

J Kelly ML shirts netted - \$2,034 – Best year ever – 2017 netted \$2,000

Burns BBQ and Doyle Beach generated \$925

Expense – Port O Potty \$362 and sand \$320 left a net balance of \$2,277 for 2018

2017 Regatta generated \$4,404

2016 Regatta generated \$2,500

The difference is a result of the 50/50 draw and silent auction which generate \$1,800.

It was felt that students in grade 9-12 can accumulate volunteer hours as a Regatta coordinator and part of the regatta committee. The President or teacher can sign off on the hours for that purpose. We should post this opportunity for upcoming Regattas.

Expenses for MLRA

Like 2017 the follow are expenses paid by the MLRA

1. Insurance \$1,122.12 up slightly
2. FOCA – Federation of Ontario Cottagers Asst - \$146 (2017 it was \$190)
3. Website hosting - \$250 + tax and Domain name cost of \$30 + tax
4. Other expense minimal for Facebook newsletters, minutes, photos, regatta fire pump map

Fire Pumps Report

A new map to be created identifying the fire pump locations on the lake and to be distributed. And to be posted at the forks.

Mike Kelly and Connor Bolton wintered the pumps in 2018.

Pump box is deteriorating and requires a new box

A Motion was made to provide a new box for the pump house at Gary and Judy Borman's by
Ralf Buschke and second by Brad Fairbrass CARRIED

Discussion around posting a FIRE Indication sign at the Forks for when people drive into the lake, follow up required.

Concerns about daytime burning was raised, more communication required about the risks. Local Fire department personal are volunteers and are working during the day and its difficult for them to leave their jobs during the day if called upon for an emergency

Circulate by laws about daytime burning.

Discussion around a small donation to local fired department and having their presence at a future regatta. Further discussion required before we approach them.

Communications

MLRA Facebook page really becoming a central point of communication. Lots of activity on it, people selling, trading items, summertime help postings, etc. Very good central point of communication for the MLRA and its members. Thanks to Michelle Lemoine and all her efforts for initiating this.

Discussion around access to this is dependent on being a paying rate payer member. Further discussion required.

The ML website will also be maintained.

Water Quality Report

Pete Lemoine provide details of the following:

1. Phosphorus levels trending down – possibly as a result of people reducing soap usage and updating septic systems
Testing centres for phosphorus North and south inlet/outlets
2. Eurasian water milfoil species – very invasive, spreads easily, tough to eradicate
3. Native species plants grown by Laura Thomas on Southwood Rd, good to plant these creates natural filtration and prevents erosion and slows runoff.

Muskoka Rd 13/Southwood

In the general area of Muskoka District this is the #1 Road for complaints. Potholes are an enormous issue and can't be filled when wet. Call the town and inform them of the conditions to get action. The more calls the more likely action will be taken to fix the problem.

Boating on Morrison Lake

Each year this is always addressed, it is expected that all cottagers respect your neighbors while boating. Concerns are about wakes created, lots of canoes, kayakers, swimmers out on the lake. Be cautious when out on the water. There are several areas of rock outcropping so be mindful of those. If tubing or water skiing ride please attempt to do that activity out in the middle of the lake and then only come to shore/dock to either start or finish your run or drop a ski. Overall, everyone would just like boaters to use common sense when out on the water.

Other major concern is boating too close to shoreline, water skiing starts close to cottager's water intake pumps and disturbing the dirt which spills into cottager's jet pumps.

Also remember BEER on the PIER, WATER on the WATER.

OTHER BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association is on Sunday September 2, 2019 at 1pm at the North Morrison Lake Road Landing.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of the Morrison Lake Ratepayers Association was moved by Brad Fairbrass, and Ralf Buschke, at 2:05 p.m. CARRIED